

HIV/AIDS in Prison Project woes:
Funding runs out, as lesbian activist Judy Greenspan seeks grants to keep it going.
page 23

Climbing the walls
Rock-climber Craig Pack trains for the Gay Games.
page 27

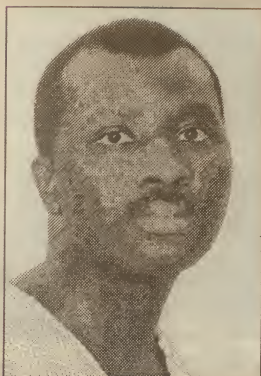
How's your ex life?
Scott O'Hara's 'Ex-Lovers' opens at Rhino.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 3 • 15 January 1998

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John Brisbane

VA Hospital has no heart for SF PWD Navy vet

by Mark Mardon

For anyone with HIV, getting a new heart is next to impossible, especially from the Veterans Administration. That's what 35-year-old Navy veteran John Brisbane discovered a few years ago, after his heart started racing erratically for short periods each day, causing him dizziness, fainting spells, and momentary blindness. He went for treatment to the Veterans Administration hospital, first in Palo Alto, later in San Francisco. Right off the bat, a doctor told him he'd be an excellent heart-transplant candidate, if only he didn't have the virus.

"The doctor said it would be wasting an organ," says Brisbane, who was shocked to be disqualified for the procedure solely because of HIV. The doctor's implication was that since HIV would shorten his life anyway, there was no reason to try prolonging it with a heart transplant.

Brisbane, who is currently fighting for his life — and a new heart — at the San Francisco Veterans Administration Medical Center, says that apart from his heart condition, he was perfectly healthy, with a high T-cell count and no AIDS symptoms, as he remains today.

Brisbane was diagnosed with idiopathic cardiomyopathy, meaning his heart walls were diseased and swelling for no known reason. The organ's pumping power was reduced to where it could no longer handle its normal load, which allowed backed-up blood to overflow into Brisbane's lungs, increasingly causing him shortness of breath.

No VA cardiologist could tell Brisbane for certain what caused his heart

page 15 ►

Pre-teen Petaluma Boy Scout fights for gay rights

by Ron Lazar

As a 12-year-old heterosexual, Steven Cozza of Petaluma may seem like an unlikely grassroots gay-rights activist. Nevertheless, that's what he's become, advocating to change the anti-gay policy of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) in controversial letters to the editors of two Sonoma County papers.

"The Scout Law says a scout is true to his friends ... nation ... world community," he wrote December 27, 1997. "This is not true for the Boy Scouts of America when it bans gays or expels them when they are found out. The Scout Law says he should be kind. He should treat others as he would want to be treated. I don't know anyone who wants to be discriminated against the way the Boy Scouts of America discriminates against gays."

Locally, the lad's opinions have elicited a mostly supportive response, as reported in the *Petaluma Argus-Courier's* January 6 opinion poll. One Petaluman said, "It just isn't right for Boy Scouts of America to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. The message this give our boys ... is down-right un-American."

Cozza's mission to gather petition signatures to send to the BSA's Irving, Texas national headquarters has garnered him high praise so far from U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, state Senator John Burton, 6th District Assemblymember Kerry Mazzone, Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey, the Sonoma County Commission on Human Rights, and Marin County's Spectrum, and the letters of support keep coming in.

Steven's father Scott is an HIV social worker and assistant Scoutmaster, and his mother Jeanette is a kindergarten teacher. During an exclusive interview with the Bay



Steven Cozza: "I don't know anyone who wants to be discriminated against the way the Boy Scouts of America discriminates against gays."

Area Reporter at their Petaluma home, they seemed comfortable with their son's decision to become active with the gay rights issue, and remained quiet and relaxed while Steven

articulated his thoughts with simple, direct statements.

Having marched for gay rights in the San Francisco Freedom Day Parade with his father last June, Steven recalled that "we were not allowed to wear our scout uniforms, and carried them on hangers." Memories like that have cultivated a deep sense of empathy in Steven. Despite his young age, he has the quality of having sincerely taken his scout

page 14 ►

CARE funds cut much less than expected - SF gets \$36.4 million

by Cynthia Laird

This year, with more cities competing for a part of the same pie, combined with a shift away from the so-called "big 7" metropolitan areas such as San Francisco, the picture did not look bright in terms of how much federal Ryan White CARE Act money the San Francisco Eligible Metropolitan Area (EMA) would receive for 1998.

Members of the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council were bracing for the worst last summer when they used a "worst case scenario" of 10 percent in cuts for the

154 CARE-funded programs in San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties. Once again, however, the CARE application submitted by the San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) was ranked among the best in the country, and that translated into only a slight reduction of 2.2 percent.

On Wednesday, January 7, the AIDS Office received its award letter from the federal Health Resources Services Agency (HRSA), stating the EMA will receive a total of \$36,394,914 in CARE funds. That is only \$799,720 less than the 1997 amount, according to Tim Piland, grants manager for

page 16 ►

INSIDE

ACT UP	26
BAR Talk	52
Classifieds	28
GLAAD	12
Mailstrom	7
Mister Marcus	50
Obituaries	24
Open Forum	6
Our Man Friday	9
Out & About	48
Out There	35
Personals	55
Sapphistication	10
Sports Complex	27

FIRST OF TWO SECTIONS




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Supe Medina wants category established Hate crimes on Muni: hearing this Tuesday

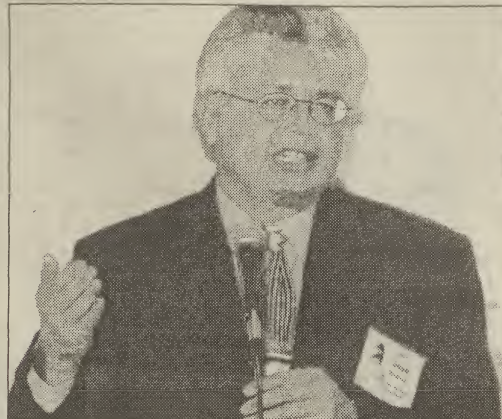
by Cynthia Laird

Supervisor Jose Medina has announced a public hearing this Tuesday, January 20 at City Hall to discuss hate crimes aboard Muni, and specifically the lack of a category for reporting those crimes within the transit agency's burdensome bureaucracy. Medina said he was prompted to take the action in part because one of his aides was assaulted three times while riding Muni, and because of a *Bay Area Reporter* article last month detailing an alleged gay-bashing of a lesbian Native American tourist while aboard a Muni bus.

Medina said that he has discovered that because Muni currently has no mechanism for tracking alleged hate crimes, they are thrown into a category called "suspicious occurrences," a situation the supervisor wants changed.

"Muni couldn't document hate crimes," Medina told the B.A.R. "Hate crimes are a very particular type of crime, an act against someone because of their race, gender, or sexual orientation."

When someone is the victim of an anti-gay attack or other hate-



Supu Jose Medina: "Muni couldn't document hate crimes."

based incident while on a Muni vehicle, they should be able to report it to Muni as a hate crime. There would most likely be a distinction between whether the reported suspect or suspects are private citizens or Muni employees.

The B.A.R. has published numerous stories about alleged hate crimes taking place on Muni buses, streetcars and underground trains over the years, crimes that have been against gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgenders. One high-profile case last year involved former Muni driver Wardy Joubert, who was off duty but wearing his Muni uniform in July 1996 when he attacked Sonny Vukic aboard the 4 Sutter line after the gay man and his lover exchanged a brief goodbye kiss. Joubert was convicted of felony assault, battery, and hate crimes. Ultimately, Joubert was fired from his job.

In the case reported last month, Rosanne Ellen Gervais, a Native American lesbian visiting from Canada, was riding the bus when she was attacked by two groups of teens and young adults. The police report on the case contains inaccurate information, according to Gervais. Vincent

Turnipseed, the Muni driver, claims he saw nothing and heard only a fight going on in the back of his vehicle.

Community United Against Violence (CUAV) has been actively assisting Medina's office and working with Muni in an effort to improve the situation and make employees more aware of anti-gay violence. CUAV now provides training to new Muni drivers, but Medina said he would like to see older employees receive training, too.

Muni chief Emilio Cruz is expected to be at the hearing, and Medina said he has discussed the situation with him. In addition to establishing a category for Muni to track alleged hate crimes, other changes will also be considered. Medina said he encourages interested residents to testify at the hearing. ▼

The hearing will be at the board's Economic Development, Transportation, and Technology Committee meeting, which begins at 10 a.m. in the fourth floor committee room at City Hall, 401 Van Ness Avenue.

Driven to distraction? Castro transit forum Thurs.

by Mike Salinas

The group Castro Area Planning + Action (CAPA) will sponsor a forum this Thursday, January 22 at 7 p.m. to discuss transit issues related to the Castro neighborhood. Muni Director Emilio Cruz will appear at the forum to talk with neighborhood residents about specific Muni problems and solutions. Cruz will also discuss Muni's future goals.

The forum will be held at the Eureka Valley Recreation Center, located on Collingwood Street off 18th Street. It is open to the public with no admission, although donations to CAPA will be gratefully accepted.

The transit forum with the Muni official will mark a coming home of sorts for CAPA, a non-

profit organization originally formed by residents of the area bounded by Dolores, 21st, Market/Clayton, and Waller Streets, because many of them were concerned about Muni's completion of the F-line streetcars on Market Street to Castro, as well as other changes to the neighborhood. In addition to focusing on transportation, traffic, and parking, CAPA is involved in housing, safety, economic development, gay and lesbian visibility, community institutions, and general planning issues.

Later this year, possibly in February, CAPA will hold a larger transportation workshop. Thursday's forum is to gain information for that meeting. ▼

For further information, call CAPA at (415) 522-1221.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Music man



E mery Frank was one of 12 hopefuls trying out for the Golden Gate Men's Chorus during auditions last Saturday. Music Director Joe Jennings provided the piano accompaniment. The group of 30 singers, which emphasizes classical music, will hold their next concerts on March 28, 29, 31 and April 1 and 7 at St. Matthews Lutheran Church. Call (415) 863-6202 for more information.

Supes to debate accountability for nonprofits Wednesday

And the pros and cons are out in force

by Mark Mardon and Cynthia Laird

A fierce lobbying effort is taking place at City Hall as a key Board of Supervisors committee prepares to meet this Wednesday, January 21 to take up the matter of instituting a "sunshine" law for nonprofit organizations that receive city funding.

Community activists, nonprofit organizations, and at least one professional political consultant have entered the fray, lining up for and against the measure, which could make city-funded nonprofit organizations, notably AIDS-service organizations (ASOs), more accountable for their actions by opening their meetings and financial records to the public.

The measure, proposed by Supervisor Tom Ammiano, will be discussed at City Hall Wednesday at 1 p.m., in a meeting of the Board's Finance Committee, chaired by Board President Barbara Kaufman and open to the public. It will present committee members with their first formal chance to debate the merits of Ammiano's proposal.

Nothing finalized

While none of the measure's provisions have been finalized, and all are subject to modification before being voted on by either the Finance Committee or the full Board, the so-called "Disclosure on Non-Profits" ordinance could, if adopted, give the public access to nonprofit organization books and records, along with certain board and subcommittee meetings. It might also authorize the Board of Supervisors to make annual appointments of a community member to the board of every nonprofit organization that contracts with the city in excess of \$100,000.

"The language of the proposal will not be complete by the time the Finance Committee meets," Ammiano told the *Bay Area Re-*

porter. "The City Attorney is working on this legislation now."

"The hearing is going to be for fact-finding," said Steven LeBlanc, a member of ACT UP/Golden Gate and a staunch advocate of applying the state's "sunshine" law for public bodies to nonprofits that receive public funding.

LeBlanc admits that many nonprofits in San Francisco view the proposed ordinance as a threat, but sees their opposition as misguided.

"Once the legislation is in place," he says, "the vast majority of nonprofits will see it's valuable. Even those expressing reservations, I predict, a year from now will be saying what a good idea it is."

Mean to SFAF?

The measure's passage is by no means guaranteed, however, as several nonprofits have engaged in a concerted effort to kill the proposal before it ever reaches the full Board for a vote. They have received high-powered support in their efforts from openly gay political consultant Robert Barnes, who told the *Bay Area Reporter* he strongly opposes the legislation. He said he is giving strategic pro-bono support to some AIDS-oriented nonprofits that want to see the measure defeated.

"Most nonprofits are not sophisticated politically," he said. "Many of those folks expressed great concern."

Barnes felt that certain AIDS organizations, in particular the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, were being targeted by the legislation because of a personal vendetta on the part of AIDS activists.

"There's a personal mean-spiritedness coming from Tom's office," he said.

Barnes questioned the impact the legislation would have on dozens of nonprofits, but gave no estimate of what, if any, costs the measure would impose.

"It doesn't necessarily mean good public policy for nonprofits to open their books," he said.

"The principles we want are

workable, fair, and cost-neutral," countered LeBlanc. "Nobody wants to inconvenience the nonprofits."

The underlying question for San Franciscans, said LeBlanc, is why any nonprofit would want to resist making its activities public. The people have a right to know where their money is going, he added.

"Why shouldn't the city push democratic principles through its contracting authority?" LeBlanc asked. ▼

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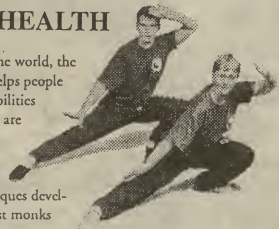
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Queer kids



Youth Commissioners Kent Khounsombath and Dennis Isner were two of the half-dozen queer youth who participated in Mayor Brown's second San Francisco Children and Youth Summit last Saturday at Everett Middle School. Although the summit was organized by age group and contained nothing queer-specific, Khounsombath spoke at the morning plenary, noting that only .03 percent of Brown's budget for Children, Youth and Families goes to queer-specific programs.

Young queers to invade Sacto

by Mark Mardon

Proves of queer youth from throughout California will descend on the state capital in Sacramento this Wednesday, January 21, collaring legislators and speaking to them about political issues close to the hearts of young lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, "questioning," and even straight folk.

"The primary issue is likely to be violence against queer youth in schools all over the state," said Jason Riggs, one of the organizers of the annual Youth Lobby Day (YLD). "But it's a day for youth to talk to legislators about all their concerns and needs."

"Queer youth are constantly used as a political football by a small group of religious political extremists pretending to speak for us," said Steve Scott, who participated in last year's event. "Youth Lobby Day is a way for us to speak for ourselves, educate each other, and take control of our future."

This year's massing of young

people in the halls of power follows last year's defeat of the Dignity for All Students Act, a bill for which queer youths had lobbied vigorously.

"The Assembly had the opportunity to pass the bill, but voted it down," said Riggs. To add insult to injury, he added, the Assembly subsequently denied the bill reconsideration, "which puts us in a position of not having this bill to lobby on."

Organizers of YLD say their efforts are part of an ongoing effort to "lay foundations for youth organizing, channel the political power of

youth, and build lasting networks."

"The experience of being surrounded by people actively making political change is very empowering and energizing," said Ellen McCormick, civil rights legislative advocate for LIFE Lobby & Institute, a primary sponsor of YLD. ▼

For more information on Youth Lobby Day, including ways to attend, volunteer, donate funds, or co-sponsor the event, visit YLD's "incite!" website at www.incite.org, or call LIFE at (916) 444-0424.

Pride parade's new theme aims to shake up city

by Mark Mardon

In a move that marching bands, float designers, and legions of banner-waving civic groups may interpret as a tribute to disco divas, organizational rabble-rousers, or the San Andreas Fault, the Pride Celebration has chosen the theme "Shakin' It Up" for this year's gay pride weekend.

"We San Franciscans pride ourselves on being at the cutting edge of both politics and culture," said Chris Martin, board member of the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee (SFLGBT-PCC). He explained that in choosing the theme, the committee's general membership was suggesting queers are "shakin' it up politically - and on the dance floor, too."

Martin added that the theme also refers to changes he expects to occur in the Pride Celebration

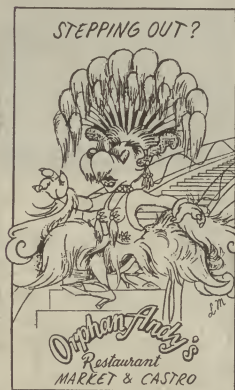
itself, as this year's event promises to be "more spectacular than ever."

Teddy Witherington, the Pride Committee's new executive director, fresh from London, where he organized a half-dozen Pride festivals, said the "Shakin' It Up" theme was selected from a wide choice of options because it "plugs into the new spirit of dynamism coursing through San Francisco's queer communities."

Witherington hopes Pride participants will think about using the theme imaginatively in their floats, costumes, music, banners, and celebratory motifs.

"It's going to be very special," he promised. ▼

The 1998 Pride celebration activities will be held the weekend of June 27-28. For further information, call (415) 864-FREE, or visit the website at www.sf-pride.org.



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Meeting dates changed

The San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Pride Celebration Committee's general membership meeting previously scheduled for last Sunday, January 11 has been changed. The meeting will be held this Tuesday, January 20 at 9:30 p.m., at the pride committee's office in the Fox Plaza office building, located at 1390 Market Street in Suite 1225. People can call (415) 864-3733 with questions or for more information.

Also, contrary to information that appeared in the article "Guernville gay man sues county for \$2M" in last week's *Bay Area Reporter*, Sonoma County sheriff James Piccinini will not speak at a meeting of the Human Rights Commission's Hate Crimes Network in Guerneville this Wednesday, January 21. According to Piccinini, he is planning instead to convene a special community meeting in Guerneville in the near future to discuss human rights concerns. ▼

Judge Tsenin throws out case against ACT UP/SF members

Community service for tossing kitty litter

by Cynthia Laird

San Francisco Municipal Court Judge Kay Tsenin took matters into her own hands Monday, January 12, and either dismissed or diverted a variety of misdemeanor charges against four members of ACT UP/San Francisco. The charges stemmed from the infamous October 17, 1996 cat litter incident involving San Francisco AIDS Foundation Executive Director Pat Christen, and another incident that year at Davies Medical Center.

The District Attorney's Office is not pleased with the actions taken by Tsenin, a lesbian, and objected to all of her decisions. An attorney in the Public Defender's Office who represented one of the defendants told the B.A.R. that at least concerning her defendant, there was simply no evidence to substantiate the charges.

Perhaps most surprising was Tsenin's decision involving defendant Ronnie Burk, who was charged with throwing used kitty litter on Christen during a SFAF-sponsored candidates' forum that was held shortly before the November 1996 election. Assistant District Attorney Mike Menesini said that Burk, who is eligible for pre-trial diversion, is expected to have to perform 25 hours of community service - one hour for every pound of used cat litter he dumped.

Burk was the only defendant who will actually have to serve any type of punishment. Tsenin deemed diversion to be completed for defendants Michael Bellefountaine, Todd Swindell, and Dave Pasquarelli, meaning their cases are finished. Menesini pointed out that diversion is a one-time option that has now been used by the men; it will not be available should any of them be charged with crimes in the future. Additionally, the defendants had to withdraw their pleas of not guilty to be eligible for diversion.

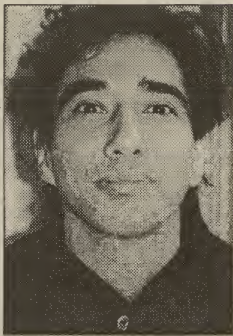
"They had all said they wouldn't take diversion and wanted a 'show trial,' but at the last minute, they all folded and availed themselves of it [diversion], so that action, for them, is an admission of wrongdoing," Menesini told the B.A.R. "Particularly regarding Mr. Burk, I think he is going to perform 25 hours of community service, and it's not going to be the kind of community service Mr. Burk chooses. He is being punished."

Tsenin's actions do not change the civil restraining order against Burk and Bellefountaine that the SFAF has in effect, Menesini added.

Nonetheless, Menesini said the DA's office felt the punishment should have been stiffer for Burk and Bellefountaine. Swindell and Pasquarelli's roles in the incidents were viewed as peripheral. "We feel there was a systematic attempt to disrupt a legitimate organization's community forum," said Menesini.

Bellefountaine, not surprisingly, claimed victory. "I'm glad it's over," he told the B.A.R. "I think justice was served. For us, the next step now is to expose the perjury Pat [Christen] used to get restraining orders against Ronnie [Burk] and I." Bellefountaine did not dispute the fact that Burk tossed the kitty litter onto Christen.

Through a spokesperson, Christen told the B.A.R., "I have maintained all along that it is unacceptable to address differences of opinion through violence. Violence in any form will never be an acceptable form of debate as we work to end the epidemic." ▼



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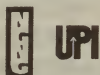
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Death and taxis

Very few things ever make us sorry we live in San Francisco; except for the obvious problem of earthquake susceptibility, this is a very livable and enjoyable town. Most of the time. But whenever we have to call a cab here we find ourselves edging toward civic dyspepsia, remembering that line about our fair metropolis being just "a cow town with an opera."

Even for those who enjoy the opera, the lack of taxis can be maddening — who, by now, has not heard horror stories about opera/theatre/ballet/symphony tickets going unused because a cab called at 7:10 failed to show until well past the 8:00 curtain time? Who has not heard of missed doctor's appointments, business meetings, parties, etc.?

Besides being a dreadful inconvenience, this situation is dangerous for our many friends with fragile health. People who do not own cars rarely have the financial luxury of ordering an ambulance to take them to their doctor's appointments; frequently those people are unable to deal with Muni, and therefore find it necessary to use taxis.

(By the way, speaking of Muni, there will be two opportunities to discuss our mass transit this week. Director Emilio Cruz will attend a City Hall hearing about Muni's lack of hate crimes categorization, as well as a Castro Area Planning + Action forum on transit in the Castro. Details about both events are on page two; we encourage everyone with an opinion to attend one or both of the events.)

To return to the dearth of taxis, it should be pointed out that the failure to provide adequate livery service is especially weird since this town is the world's favorite tourist destination, and we don't have enough cabs to offer to residents, much less to visitors. This situation has undoubtedly had (and continues to have) an adverse affect on San Francisco's performing arts community. Unless and until we have enough cabs to get audience members to performances, the lamentably sparse theatre situation here is unlikely to improve very much.

The situation is nothing new. It is so old, in fact, that longterm residents accept it as normal, even while acknowledging that it is infuriating. The taxi industry, meanwhile, insists that putting any more cabs on the street would do irreparable damage to the lives of current drivers. (Which is nonsense: if residents believed they could rely on taxi service, more would use it more, but as it now stands most people know they can wait for a bus — and even wait for a subsequent transfer — and get to their destinations long before the damn cab they called ever arrives.) Some even point to voters' rejections of recent ballot measures that purported to fix the problem, as some sort of evidence San Franciscans like the situation as it currently stands. We disagree. All the propositions in recent memory failed to deal with the real problem — the scarcity of taxis — and

instead tried to consolidate power for big taxi companies.

The people we hold most responsible for that mess are the political consultants who sided with the taxi companies. Some of those consultants would apparently be willing to put propositions on the ballot that would imprison their own mothers in Turkish prisons, if there was a consultant's fee to be gained.

Now we hear some of the same muscle that has helped the taxi industry override the need of ordinary transit-dependent citizens will be helping the AIDS, Inc. industry override the needs of people with HIV.

Consultant Robert Barnes has stepped into the issue of whether AIDS Service Organizations need to be more accountable — on the side of those who argue "sunshine laws" are (in the words of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation's executive director) "literally deadly." This is not too surprising, since the ASOs have a lot more money than PWAs, and although everyone says Barnes's efforts have been without financial compensation to date, we suspect that if and when the battle heats up, some of AIDS Inc.'s biggest spenders will be loosening their purse strings — to purses filled with donated money — to prevent the community from seeing what they're really doing.

And that prospect, we must admit, is even more infuriating than waiting for a cab for an hour in the rain. ▼



Editorial

Sunshine is good for all

by Michael Lauro

It is not surprising that some of our larger AIDS organizations oppose an accountability reform campaign directed at the burgeoning nonprofit industry. Under this initiative, AIDS agencies receiving public money would be subject to some of the same standards of openness and accountability as public agencies are now. It would guarantee access to fuller public information, and open board meetings to ensure meaningful community participation. Sensitive employee personnel matters, issues of client confidentiality, employment disputes, and litigation are specifically exempted. Nothing in the draft proposal requires very much in the way of cost or administrative burdens.

The nonprofit "Sunshine Accountability Initiative" will provide needed protections within an industry that has seen tremendous uncontrolled growth with scant oversight afforded by existing nonprofit laws. Today, a largely unregulated nonprofit sector in the U.S. is expanding faster than business and government. Since 1970, the amount spent by nonprofit groups — as well as the number of people they employ — has grown four times more as compared with the overall U.S. economy. In sheer numbers, the growth of social service nonprofits has been breathtaking. The number of nonprofits in the U.S. now exceeds 1,250,000. In California, a 120,000-strong nonprofit industry now accounts for over five percent of the state's entire workforce and controls over \$50 billion annually.

A series of highly visible scandals including the lavish excesses of United Way's chief William Aramony, the misdeeds at Covenant House in New York, and a nonprofit fundraising pyramid scheme sowing at the New Era Center for Philanthropy have certainly done nothing to allay the public's increasing suspicion that something has drastically changed within the world of nonprofits. Altruistic leaders once serving the public good are gradually replaced by a new class of degreed administrators who intercede as the new gatekeepers when government or the mass media call for an "expert" or a comment. Further, the new reliance on paid "professional" staff instead of community volunteers has removed an important linkage that once

served as the glue holding organizations accountable to the communities and the individuals they were created to serve.

The "Sunshine Accountability Campaign" provides a workable solution to address the growing lack of public accountability that People With AIDS face today. That the San Francisco AIDS Foundation opposes these reforms, saying they will only create unneeded "bureaucracy," is an untenable and telling position. Open books, open meetings, and an involved and participatory community are democratic values that we must affirm. Sunshine openness reforms will not, as the San Francisco AIDS Foundation would like us to believe, ensure bureaucracy. On the contrary, these reforms remain the best hope of People Living With AIDS/HIV to assure accountability from the bureaucracy. Improving the quality of services delivered results from both efficient operation and accountable governance.

The words of the Bagley-Keene "Open Meetings Act" are as relevant today for the nonprofit industry as they were appropriate for California's public agencies when the act passed the state legislature:

"It is the public policy of this state that public agencies exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business, and the proceedings of public agencies be conducted openly so that the public may remain informed. ... The people of this state do not yield their sovereignty to the agencies which serve them. The people, in delegating authority, do not give their public servants the right for the people to know and what is not good for them to know. The people insist on remaining informed so that they may retain control over the instruments they have created."

People With AIDS/HIV deserve as much consideration. We deserve AIDS agencies that are genuinely responsive and publicly accountable in all areas. Beginning with the early "San Francisco Statement," the "AIDS Action Pledge," and the "Agnos Blue Ribbon Commission on AIDS," PWAs in this city have continually insisted on the right of public accountability. We have fought for a place at the table, at any table where decisions are made which might affect us. The right to inclusion, accountability, responsiveness, and participation in the design and

implementation of AIDS programs and priorities was won long ago. We certainly will not surrender that right in our own backyard. It is well past time to put the "community" back into the concept of "community-based," and to hold AIDS agencies accountable for their actions.

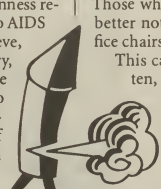
It is not, I would contend, a scarcity of resources keeping many of us on a broken CHIPS housing assistance list year after year. More likely, it is a scarcity of leadership, courage and vision. It is a crisis of accountability that threatens to kill us today. Those who raise money in our names had better not get too comfortable in their office chairs.

This campaign is not about Pat Christen, the press she gets, my misogyny, her salary, the SFAF, the press it gets, or Derek Gordon's (SFAF's "media director") disingenuous ad hominem sound bite that this call for accountability is the work of "an extremely vocal minority." Vocal? That's novel, a media director who has a problem

with a form of communication. Crisis, if that is what AIDS still is, demands that the many changes we are confronted by are responded to swiftly. This is such a time, and the "Sunshine Accountability Campaign" is one step forward in that direction.

I have been an unpaid AIDS activist for nine years. My first committee action was targeting the Social Security Administration to expand the definition of disabling AIDS to also include those specific conditions that affected women. I have fought for AIDS drugs for children, needle exchange for addicts, and housing assistance for indigent and disabled People With AIDS. Yet ultimately, this accountability campaign may be the most crucial work in my time as an AIDS activist.

When PWAs literally took the stage many years ago and unofficially opened the Sixth International Conference on AIDS, the world was put on notice that we were prepared to put our bodies on the line to save our own lives. Those AIDS agencies that refuse to reform had better be ready to downsize quickly. The Boards of Directors of these agencies would be wise to respond some time sooner than later. The clock is ticking. Our community is waiting. And our patience has run out. ▼



Guest Opinion

LETTERS

SLDN fundraiser success

With all the activity one goes through at the holiday season, thank yous often get lost. I just wanted to take a moment to thank you for helping us publicize the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network fundraiser that I had in my home on November 2.

The article ran on the front page the week prior, and even had a photo of the event the following week. I am very grateful for that. The B.A.R.'s assistance in publicizing the event allowed us to raise over \$9,000 for SLDN.

Earl B. Rynerson, Jr.
San Francisco

Rainbow in Marin

I want to thank you for Ron Lazar's article, "Spectrum, Marin County's rainbow, bright after financial storm." We appreciate coverage of the good work we do at Spectrum, and expect that the media will also ask "hard" questions when necessary. Such coverage indicates that your paper is living up to its name, reporting Bay Area news and not just San Francisco happenings. I would, however, like to address two factual errors in the article, and make one clarifying comment.

The article names Sherrie Holmes as our Volunteer Program Coordinator. Sherrie is a board member who coordinated (as a volunteer) our year-end fund appeal which the article highlights. Gary "Buz" Hermes is our Volunteer Program Coordinator, which is a paid, half-time staff position. Also, please note that the percentage of agency expenses attributable to adult men's and women's programs is 4%, not the 24% reported.

In addition, I want to make clear that the comparison made between Spectrum's board meetings and those of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is the work of the reporter. I was not asked to comment on the work of the Foundation for this article and did not do so. Any comparisons drawn for the purpose of this article are those of the reporter, Ron Lazar. Aside from these minor concerns, the article was excellent. We appreciate the support we have received from our community in Marin, and hope that the B.A.R. will continue its coverage of news in the North Bay Area.

John Kirkley
Interim Executive Director
Spectrum Center for Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Concerns
San Anselmo, CA

[Editor's note: Of course we take responsibility for pointing out that there is greater openness at Spectrum than at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. If the article gave the impression that they were your words, we apologize, as we do to Ms. Holmes and Mr. Hermes for the misidentifications.]

Rising hate crimes

The new year came in with a report that hate crimes in California rose by 17 percent over 1995. Perhaps the fact that these figures, alarming as they are, are from three years ago tells us something about how much of a priority the Wilson administration places on crimes of prejudice. Despite all the blather about how "increased awareness" leads to "more accurate reporting," the attorney general himself must bear significant blame because of his attempts to nullify Prop 215, thereby showing the power of prejudice in legal circles. Also, Lungren's blatant homophobia and that of his boss Pete Wilson have effectively stoked the fires of hatred in California.

However "deplorable" the performance of Republican office holders, the major responsibility surely rests with self-styled religious figures, who do not hesitate to foment hatred in the vilest possible manner. I'm thinking of Presbyterian ministers like Lou Sheldon and other fundamentalist fanatics of all stripes, whether "Christian" or non-Christian. I should add that churches who claim to serve the queer community have been practically comatose in their neglect of this most urgent problem.

John Frederic Millen
San Francisco

The fate of 1800 Market

Recent letters have questioned why those concerned with the preservation of 1800 Market had not done anything all the time it allegedly sat deteriorating. This argument is stupid and transparent; the building was private property, and nobody had applied for a demolition permit.

Now it has been purchased [for the community center] with city money, under the pretext that 1800 Market was to be preserved. This use of city money entitles any city resident, gay, straight, or whatever, to express an opinion as to the building's fate.

Larry Beete
San Francisco

Katz in the hen-house

Tom Ammiano and Leslie Katz should not have been surprised (and probably weren't) that Interim DPH Director Mitch Katz's response to their requests was incomplete, evasive, and protective of Pat Christen and her SFAF Board of Sycophants [front page, Dec. 25].

Dr. Katz has earned a reputation for favoring repressive approaches to public health and for covering up the political motivations of bad public policy with assertions of "community input." This should have indicated what his response toward calls for sunshine laws and due process requirements for the nonprofit bureaucrats with whom, he has colluded would be. This was a classic case of, proverbially, asking the fox to guard the hen-house.

But wait: if I employ this analogy for Dr. Katz and SFAF, it makes me just one of the tiny minority of misogynists with sexist, personal vendettas against Pat Christen, and easily dismissed. Right? Guess again.

Dr. Katz's poor response here indicates more than incompetence and neglect. He is buffering the criticism and interfering with the oversight of SFAF (and those other ASOs too timid to cross Pat Christen) to solidify his own political base. In *OUTReach* (Vol. 2, No. 3), SFAF's latest pointless drain on better-used funds, false and misleading articles attempt to

provide an epidemiological basis for the bad data in Gabriel Rotello's recent book. Rotello's new moralism has served as the basis for Dr. Katz's string of hare-brained policy schemes, including hiring paid voyeurs for sex clubs. SFAF gives Dr. Katz cover; he covers them in return; one hand washes the other.

Full accountability from public employees and from community service organizations using public funds is long overdue. If either of them had a shred of integrity, the first good faith actions in this process would be the resignations of Pat Christen and Dr. Mitch Katz.

Luke Adams
Oakland, CA

Support from Supe Katz

Thank you for your paper's ongoing coverage of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and the state of AIDS services in San Francisco as part of your overall service to the community.

I am writing to clarify my position on two matters that have been mentioned in articles:

• My office is working with the collaboration of the San Francisco Department of Public Health to develop standardized and consistent due-process and grievance procedures regarding suspension from health services provided by agencies that receive funding from the City and County of San Francisco.

• I have indicated my support for a public hearing called by Supervisor Ammiano to examine and explore the feasibility of adapting or recommending some of the principles contained in the Sunshine Ordinance (applicable to San Francisco government) to the operation of non-profits that obtain funding from the City and County of San Francisco. Other than the call for hearings, I know of no formal proposal that has been put forward on the issue, and accordingly I cannot take a position until I see such legislation.

Thank you for allowing me to clarify my position on these matters.

Good luck and best wishes for continued good coverage in 1998.

Supervisor Leslie Katz
San Francisco

Hoodlum invasion

I am horrified that Mayor Willie Brown wants Union Square or anything else to be like New York. We, the voters of San Francisco, do not need a huge party in our crowded downtown area on New Year's Eve, which can only attract the usual hoodlums, drunks, and dope addicts. We have had, for two years in a row, not only a rowdy unofficial party at Union Square of 15,000 hoodlums, but these same white male hoodlums from the wealthy suburbs have gone on a rampage all over Nob Hill, destroying flower pots, setting fire to discarded Christmas trees, and throwing glass bottles and other trash on the streets and sidewalks. If Willie Brown thinks New York is so wonderful, he should move there, immediately.

Lee Heller
San Francisco

Brief for boxers

Mike Tyson deserves all the jokes about the ear-biting incident. He doesn't deserve to have a nude photo printed in the B.A.R. without his consent [The Sports Page, December 25]. Please don't let the *Bay Area Reporter* become another tabloid.

Jacob Jacobs
San Francisco

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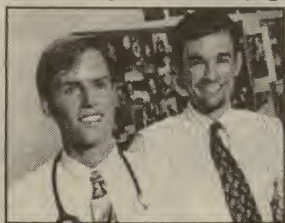
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Dress code at the Loading Dock

I was disappointed Mr. Marcus chose to write about an unidentified "Large Group's" threat of an angry protest at the Loading Dock Bar in response to an incident with Donna Sachet without having contacted the bar's owner to obtain an objective view.

Had Marcus done so, he would have been informed Ms. Sachet was asked to leave simply because she did not conform to the bar's dress code. Had Donna had the fashion sense to dress in leather, latex, or uniform regardless of the gender base of the garment, she would never have been asked to leave. After all, a Parisian woman never wears pants after 5 p.m. in Paris, it's only smart dress sense.

I have always been reverent and kind in my personal dealings with Mr. Marcus, and I simply expect the same respect in return, especially in regards to my bread and butter. Or he may receive an angry protest from some unemployed bartenders in the future.

Matapalo Castano
Loading Dock Bartender
San Francisco

[Be damn careful what you wear.]

ETVContrite

On behalf of the ETV newsletter staff and columnist Sandra Brewer, I wish to apologize to Ms. Victoria Secret and everyone else who is angered and offended by the column in the latest issue of the ETV newsletter. While we reserve the right of our contributors to express their opinions as wholly their own, sanctioning nor censoring no one; in this instance, neither Sandra nor ETV intended to offend or imply judgment of the gay community with the description of NBC's *Union Square* episode featuring a cross-dresser.

In noting the accepting spirit in which the show depicted a cross-dresser, neither Sandra nor ETV wished to imply agreement with any negative assumptions the show's characters or creators conveyed about the gay community. I am sorry that, inadvertently, we did.

I appreciate Victoria's concern regarding ETV's relationship to the gay community. I, too, value and wish to maintain the harmony that Ginny Knuth and others worked so hard to establish. All of us, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, are entitled to respect. Bringing this about is a shared goal of both the gay and transgendered communities.

I hope we can continue in the spirit of mutual respect and cooperation.

Erin Souza
ETVC President
San Francisco

Sex-reassignment surgery

My congratulations to everyone who contributed to the December 18 vote of the Health Services System Board removing the discriminatory exclusion of sex-reassignment services from health plans. ("Health board reverses stance," December 25.) Way to go!

Matt Rice's summation of the Transgender Health Project's preliminary results — "Almost everyone wanted surgery, but relatively few had had it," largely due to lack of financial access — illustrates the need to provide medically necessary services to transsexuals. It is nothing less than criminal to deny sex-reassignment surgery to those who need it.

The vote is the first step in providing for the needs of working-class and poor transsexuals in San Francisco. Much remains to be done, however, before the United States joins the rest of the civilized world and provides publicly-funded SRS. Canada, Great Britain, The Netherlands, Brazil, and Romania are among the countries already providing this medical care.

It's time the U.S. did so, too.

Margaret Deirdre O'Hartigan
Portland, OR

Left out at the holiday concert

[The following letter was sent to Brian Owens, President, Board of Directors, Golden Gate Performing Arts, Inc., San Francisco Gay Men's Chorus:]

Dear Mr. Owens:

I am writing to express to your board how deeply offended I was by the selection of music offered at the 1996 and 1997 holiday concerts at the Masonic Auditorium and the Castro Theater. As a Jewish man, I was offended at the absence of any Hanukkah songs in this year's program, especially since Christmas Eve coincided with the second night of Hanukkah. Last year, there was one Hanukkah song selected, a joke of a song written by a member of the *Saturday Night Live* cast. Selecting it as the one song to acknowledge Hanukkah was extremely tacky and in very bad taste.

As gay people, we are all familiar with the painful feelings of being left out and excluded. For me to leave the Gay Men's Chorus concerts with those old feelings is unacceptable.

Mark S. Mendelow
Oakland, CA

Mobilizing resources

Some suggestions on litter and panhandling in the Castro, in response to Neil Uscier's "take our community back" [Guest Opinion] column on January 1:

The litter is offensive, but mostly confined to a few commercial blocks with heavy pedestrian traffic. One person walking around to pick up the trash, working about half-time, could largely solve the problem for the whole Castro neighborhood. Several businesses or organizations could easily share the expense, and earn the gratitude of merchants and public alike.

Panhandling in the Castro is part of a much larger problem. San Francisco has thousands of homeless young people, typically "throwaways" forced out of their families when they became sexual, who are attracted to San Francisco because of its reputation for gay tolerance. They came here to live, to get by, not to offend. The established community should mobilize public and private resources to provide opportunities for work and education, better than panhandling or survival sex.

If our community has no room for new people, it will not be permanent, and gay liberation could become a historical memory.

John S. James
San Francisco

A drop of human kindness

To the writer Neil Uscier:

"A neighborhood to care about?" Have you a drop of human (the milk of) kindness? If Harvey M. were alive today, he would be appalled by your article.

Homosexuality in Victorian England was punishable by death. Have you no sympathy for outcasts? The MCC church is helping out. Thank God for gays like them.

You, Mister Uscier, donate money to charities. Do these organizations help out in the Castro area? There are not enough beds for the homeless. Better themselves how? I am not homeless, but find I must shell out money — to simply have a place to urinate. I talk to these people. Some are mentally and physically ill. Who gives a damn? I see people 30, or 40 pounds overweight (risking diabetes and heart disease) with change in their bulging pockets pass these pitiable creatures by. If you give a man some change for a warm drink, some uptight jerks think, "Oh no, he's going to buy a \$1,000 bag of smack."

What if the stock market really took a nose dive? What if your precious currency became worthless? What if your lover went psycho and destroyed your place and all your worldly things? What if the hand of fate struck you an evil blow? You couldn't work? What then, oh Miss Neil?

I personally adore the Castro area. I have lived here 7 years. The root of all evil is not money. It's overpopulation. A child or infant abandoned on the street will be given shelter. What about a poor adult?

Remember what happened to the esteemed, pampered and beautiful Queen Marie Antoinette? Et tu, Uscier, Neil.

Let us also not forget the last Russian Czar, and his bejeweled family.

Jonathan Swift, to quote him loosely, said, "Let them eat babies." Breeders suck, anyway.

I abhor litter, myself. I like the streets nice, neat, and clean. But have a heart, Mister Neil Uscier, take pity on those less fortunate.

If you are an atheist, you may at least think a positive thought for the homeless. How about offering them a plastic bag for their litter? A peanut-butter sandwich? A kind word.

Chris Ulrich
San Francisco

Bank trash

I, too, have often seen trash thrown on the sidewalks of the Castro. Unlike Neil Uscier, however, I am not so quick to blame the problem on the "vagrants and beggars."

Take a look sometime at the area around the Wells Fargo ATMs on Market Street near Market Street Gym. I often see a number of ATM receipts piled in the corners and on the sidewalk. I don't know about Neil, but I don't know a single "vagrant" or "beggar" who has an ATM card.

I wonder who might be throwing these receipts onto the sidewalks instead of into the waste receptacles provided by the bank or the nearby trash cans? Could it be the fags and queers?

Edisoy Wayne Dotson
San Francisco

New Year's aphorism

When one is hungry, all are starving.

L. Mellott
San Francisco

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POLITICS

Early election jitters

by Wayne Friday

If history is any indicator, Republicans should be smiling broadly and Democrats getting nervous as this year's national elections loom on the horizon. The November vote on all House members and 34 U.S. senators will come as President **Bill Clinton** is finishing up his sixth year in office — a benchmark that usually translates into healthy congressional losses for the president-in-power's party.

Some political observers, however, see 1998 as possibly reflecting a "don't rock the boat" attitude, and expect voters to keep things pretty much as they are. With the nation's economy strong and peace generally reigning abroad, these same politicos feel that Clinton *might* convince his countrymen to give his party the benefit of the doubt and reverse the aforementioned tradition, perhaps even helping the Democrats gain a few seats in both houses of Congress.

Only once in this century has the incumbent president's party *not* lost ground in an off-year election. That was 1934, when **Franklin D. Roosevelt** was battling the Great Depression and voters rewarded Democrats with gains in both the House and Senate.

However, most Beltway pundits feel that the GOP will keep control of both the House and Senate in 1998, perhaps even adding six House members and two in the Senate. Currently, Republicans control the Senate by a 55-45 margin, so the Democrats would need to pick up six seats to gain control of that body — something even Democratic strategists admit is highly unlikely. Democrats would need to gain only 11 seats to take control of the 435-member House, however, and some party leaders feel that that is a possibility.

A dozen or so races could determine the fate of the Senate. Among the "open seats," Democrats are looking to replace retiring **Dan Coats** (R-Indiana) with popular former Hoosier Governor **Evan Bayh**, and Republicans privately concede that is a probability. However, in Ohio, Senator **John Glenn** (D) is retiring, and that state's popular GOP Governor **George Voinovich** is expected to pick up that seat for his party.

The seats of two other retiring Democratic senators, **Wendell Ford** in Kentucky and **Dale Bumpers** in Arkansas, are prime targets for Republicans, and Democratic leaders confess it will be difficult to hang on to the two. Incumbent Democrats seeking re-election whom Republicans have targeted include our own **Barbara Boxer**, **Carol Moseley-Braun** (Illinois), and **Patty Murray** (Washington).

All three women were first elected in the so-called "Year of the Woman" sweep in 1992. But now even hardened Democrats expect Moseley-Braun to lose her seat, though Boxer and Murray are given better-than-even odds to retain their posts.

Other incumbent Democrats facing very tough re-election fights include **Ernest Hollings** of



Potential opponents? Supe Barbara Kaufman (left) and Mayor Willie Brown in happier times.

South Carolina, **Russell Feingold** of Wisconsin, and **Harry Reid** of Nevada. Republican incumbents thought to be in trouble include **Alfonse D'Amato** of New York, **Lauch Faircloth** of North Carolina, and **Christopher Bond** of Missouri. As of this writing, more than two dozen House members of both parties have announced plans to retire this year, as well as seven U.S. senators.

Another reason that Democrats strongly suspect they have their work cut out for them even to maintain the current makeup of Congress is money. In addition to the tradition that supposedly favors Republicans this year, the GOP already has somewhere in the neighborhood of \$15 million in the bank (and expects to raise \$10 million more) to help fund close House and Senate races.

Meanwhile, the national Democratic Party is using President Clinton, Vice President **Al Gore**, and anyone else they can nab to help raise funds to pay off a nagging debt. The Democrats *do* expect to be able to recruit various strong, well-financed candidates who might be attracted to enter the fray by the chance, however small, that they can overtake the GOP's 11-seat majority and gain control of the House.

Bottom line: Barring the completely unexpected, look for the Republicans to retain control of both the House and the Senate, with the Democrats picking up four to six House seats and possibly one Senate seat. But hell's bells, it's a long way from January to November.

Politics and people

The fight to replace state Senator **Bill Lockyer** as the California Senate's next leader will be a three-way race between Democrats **John Burton** of San Francisco, **Patrick Johnston** of Stockton, and **Richard Polanco** of Los Angeles.

This might be settled by press time, but my City Hall sources tell me that last week's choice to replace former Supervisor **Susan Leal** is not the choice of the moment this week. (Is a Latino now at the top of the list?)

In Contra Costa County, Supervisor **Jim Rogers**, better known as *The People's Lawyer* of late-night TV, became president of that county's Board of Supes last week.

Sacramento rumors had big — really big — campaign checks being cut all over the place last week in the wake of a federal judge's recent ruling that key parts of the state's tough new campaign finance law (Prop. 208) were in violation of the First Amendment.

In New York, gays and lesbians of both parties are reportedly lining up to help out with the upcoming U.S. Senate campaign of **Geraldine Ferraro**, long a champion of gay rights.

As predicted in this column nearly two months ago, San Diego Mayor **Susan Golding** last week dropped her bid for the GOP nomination to take on **Barbara Boxer** (citing lack of funds). Incidentally, Mayor Golding's withdrawal from the contest means that there will probably be no Republican women seeking statewide office in California this year.

Former GOP Assembly Leader **Curt Pringle** is considering a race for state treasurer, which would pit him against San Mateo County Supe **Ruben Balleares** in the GOP June primary.

Sacto insiders tell me that if **Dianne Feinstein** does run for governor, as expected (that call from the Prez couldn't have hurt), Demo leaders will put pressure on outgoing Assembly Speaker **Cruz Bustamante** to run for lieutenant governor instead of secretary of state. The thought here is that a high-profile Latino name would make a Feinstein ticket even more appealing.

Does this guy have too much time on his hands, or what? Billionaire media mogul **Ted Turner** recently told the *New York Post* that he makes love to his wife, 60-year-old **Jane Fonda**, three times a day. It *does* pay to stay in shape, doesn't it, Jane?

Is Board of Supes President **Barbara Kaufman** considering a run against Mayor **Willie Brown** the next election? It's only a rumor at this point. However, if I had to say who Da Mayor should be concerned about, I would place my bets on Supervisor **Leland Yee**. Certainly, any possible challenger would be a fool to underestimate Willie Brown, despite the premature headlines that claim he's fading.

Assessor **Doris Ward** looks like a shoo-in for another term this June. Only a couple of unknown minor candidates are even talking about opposing her.

Public Defender **Jeff Brown** will also likely get another free ride unless that rumored candidate from the gay/lesbian community soon materializes. ▼

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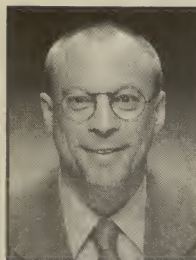
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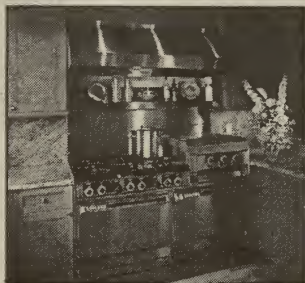
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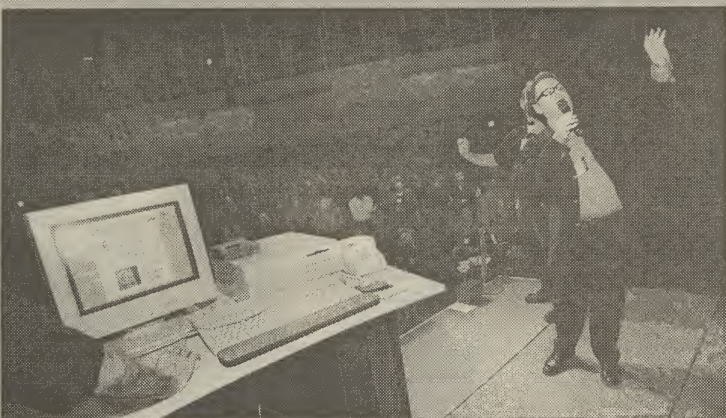
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Bodacious browser



Digital Queers co-founder Tom Reilly launched a new web browser, Cruiser 6.0, at DQ's annual kick-off party during MacWorld last Saturday, Jan. 10. Although not intended for marketing, the spoof received such a positive response from the crowd that perhaps a reconsideration is in order.

Revenge on the nerds

by Beth Elliott

And Just Where Do You Think You're Going Today? Dept.: Hatred for Bill Gates and Microsoft is so pervasive it's almost a cottage industry ... and will be, if any of the websites dissing the übernerd and his "Evil Empire" start selling banner ads. Yet in going beyond the desire to see someone rich and powerful stumble and fall, in making Gates and his company into some kind of Satan, some of these critics are becoming just as evil themselves, making denunciations in the media which, were they directed at us, would immediately be labeled hate crimes.

The evil I see looming in this hysteria (and hysteria it is) is the only reason I'd speak up to suggest laying off the Bill-bashing. I use some Microsoft products and avoid others. I find the Windows95 interface to be an excellent tool, but think Word sucks. So I use WordPerfect, but find Microsoft's Excel to be a superior spreadsheet to Quattro Pro. I browse with Explorer but prefer Eudora for e-mail, even though the Explorer e-mail has a handier address book, because Eudora handles file attachments and multiple accounts much better. In other words, I do what every other computer user is free to do: pick and choose. Meanwhile, I laughed nastily when the federal judge removed Explorer from his desktop in 90 seconds, much to the public embarrassment Microsoft had coming.

Whether or not the judge restricts Microsoft permanently, alternatives to Windows for the PC continue to be available, like IBM's OS/2 Warp. A multitude of companies, from corporations to tiny industrial park clone-makers run by immigrant families, offer PC hardware. Apple, on the other hand, is the company that holds a monopoly on both hardware and operating system; it briefly licensed Mac clones, but recently stopped that practice. Macintoshes used to be a lot more expensive ... until competition that Microsoft made possible forced prices down.

But Apple has the cooler, hipper, more counterculture image, complete with ads featuring Muhammad Ali and the Dalai Lama. Apple thus escapes the kind

of envy directed toward Seattle's East Side. Last week at Macworld, Steve Jobs announced Apple had turned a \$45 million profit after a string of losing quarters. How did Apple accomplish this? Partly through the standard "corporate evil" of downsizing: Apple has cut 5,000 jobs in the past two years. In fact, Jobs announced that Apple would continue to shed jobs through attrition. Yet Apple escapes criticism, perhaps because of the Mac's image as a lifestyle accoutrement that sends a message about the user. Relentless management practices, but cool ads ... just like Nike, in a way.

And yet it's whipping up a "progressive" frenzy against Microsoft to which *Mother Jones* dedicates nearly an entire issue. A version of the lead editorial was reprinted in the *Chronicle*. In it, *Mother Jones* Editor-in-Chief Jeffrey Klein warns that we are being lured into the equivalent of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* by the flashing lights and consumer temptations of the Web, and that "Gates has been instrumental in making a mindless world attractive." To anyone who uses the Web as the excellent research tool it is, this statement is ludicrous.

But Klein goes further, using McCarthy era-type innuendo to damn Gates's every motive as evil. It takes but a basic browser configuration to defeat the "cookies" Klein calls "an unprecedented system for collecting data on consumers who use his products," a system routinely used by many commercial websites. And Klein further accuses Gates and Microsoft of "bullying foreign companies caught using pirated software programs. A *Mother Jones* investigation revealed that foreign software pirates are offered a simple out: Switch to Microsoft and your legal problems will disappear."

Ooh, that sounds really ominous ... until one takes a moment to realize it translates to Microsoft saying, "Pay for the software you stole from us, or we'll have you arrested." Until one remembers that software (and recorded music) piracy is a multimillion-dollar racket in East Asia that nearly

scuttled the most recent International Copyright Conventions and affected the geopolitical issue of China's trading status. Hey, nice investigation! The only difference between counterfeiting floppies, CDs, or CD-ROMs, and hijacking trucks on their way to the software store is, to use a metaphor from the digerati sacred text *Being Digital*, that these thieves stole electrons instead of atoms.

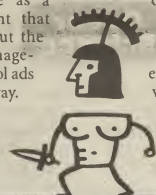
Some bullying! It should be obvious that Microsoft is perfectly within its rights to fight back against industrial-strength thievery ... but perhaps it isn't obvious to those who believe that because Bill Gates is so rich, it isn't wrong to steal from him and his corporation (or from any corporation, period). In the same edition of the

Chronicle, there was an story about a judge in Mexico who freed a common highwayman who admitted killing an American businessman in the course of a robbery, because the murderer was "a modern Robin Hood" who gave away his loot to his cronies.

Is this what "progressive" ethics and values have come down to: the notion that the "right people," namely the progressive movement's approved victims and their advocates, may lie, cheat, steal, and even kill, and proclaim themselves to be morally superior heroes for doing so? That's what Jeffrey Klein and *Mother Jones* are saying when they call Gates and Microsoft "bullies" for fighting back when ripped off. That's what Judge Maria Claudia Campuzano was saying when she shrugged off a murder because the victim was affluent and the killer "redistributed" the loot.

Klein said Microsoft's response to an injunction against software bundling "leaves us uncomfortably wondering whether governments retain the power to slap the wrists of brazen corporations." Myself, I wonder how to retain the power to protect myself from brazen looters. What was I making when a lover first tried to guilt-trip me into using my earnings to give her extra house equity for free? \$26,000 per year. Very different salary from Bill Gates's, same collectivist principles. Or lack of principles, actually. ▼

Sapphistication



You don't know dick

by Simon LeVay, Ph.D.

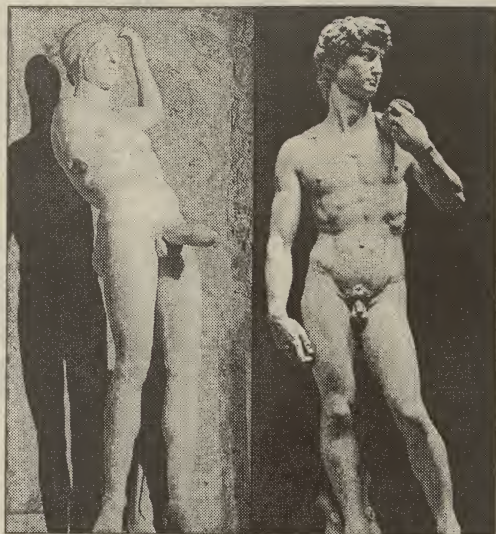
The penis, like the Loch Ness monster, is much talked about but rarely sighted. As a consequence, you've probably heard plenty of "factoids" about the penis, especially concerning its size, but should you believe them? Let's see if any are supported by hard science.

Factoid #1: Men have a bigger penis than any other primate. That depends how you measure it. If we're talking about the *length* of the erect penis, chimpanzees rival or outdo men. According to a 1994 British-Gabonese study, the average male chimp's penis measures 5.7 inches, with some individuals reaching seven inches. The average for men, according to a 1996 study by urologist Hunter Wessells and two colleagues at UCSF Medical School, is more than half an inch shorter: a mere 5.1 inches. The best-endowed of their 80 subjects measured 7.5 inches. (The measurements were taken along the top surface, from the base to the tip.) When it comes to *girth*, however, chimps are no match for men.

Both men and male chimps outdo other primates. In the case of chimps, the reason for the large size of the penis is thought to be connected with competition for mates: the erect penis is used as a sexual advertisement to females. In addition, since a female chimp typically has sex with several males over a short period of time, a long penis may be useful for displacing semen already present in the female's vagina ("sperm competition"). It's not certain whether either of these mechanisms was important in human evolution. Another possibility is that large penises served to impress or intimidate other males. This could be relevant to the perceived importance of penis size in the gay male community.

Factoid #2: The length of a man's flaccid penis tells you something about its length when erect. Pretty much false. Wessells's data show only a rather weak correlation between flaccid and erect length. However, the length of the flaccid penis, when pulled forward as far as it could be stretched, was about the same as the length when erect.

Factoid #3: A three-inch penis is abnormally short. False, according to Wessells and Co. Using a mathematical definition of the normal range (two standard deviations from the mean) they concluded that any length from 2.8 to 7.4 inches should be considered normal. Of course, "normal" is re-



Italian stallion: An anonymous Pompeian sculpture (left) and Michelangelo's *David*, proving that in art as in life, size can vary.

ally in the eye of the beholder: some individual may be happy with a penis shorter or longer than this range, and others may be dissatisfied with a penis within the range. (Penis-augmentation surgery has not been shown to increase the length of the erect penis, and often leads to undesired consequences.)

Factoid #4: Black men have larger penises than do white men. Apparently true, according to a study carried out by sexologist Alfred Kinsey about fifty years ago. Fifty-nine African-American men and 2,376 white men (all college-educated) were asked to measure the length of their own erect penis and mail in the result. The average for the black men was a quarter-inch longer than for the white men. One can't exclude the possibility that the two groups of men measured their penises in different ways or were influenced by different degrees of bias or boastfulness.

Factoid #5: Gay men have larger penises than straight men. Apparently true. Kinsey never published any findings on this question, but his original database was recently re-examined by sexologists Tony Bogaert (of Brock University, Canada) and Scott Hershberger (of the University of Kansas). Their study, which has been submitted for publication, found a difference of about one-third of an inch, favoring gay men.

Again, one can't exclude the possibility that the finding is simply the result of biased measure-

ments. But the researchers consider it more likely that the difference is a real one, perhaps caused by differences in hormone exposure during fetal life. In rats, exposing a male fetus to lower-than-average levels of testosterone causes the penis to grow to greater-than-average size at puberty. This paradoxical effect involves an attempt by the fetus to adjust to the low hormone levels by increasing the levels of the hormone receptors or "target molecules." Thus, the testosterone surge at puberty finds a penis that is more than usually sensitive to the hormone, and therefore causes it to grow more. Whether such a mechanism operates in humans is not known.

Then of course, there's another source of data—the "model/es-cort" ads in gay newspapers. In a recent issue of a Los Angeles-based gay magazine (an issue with a theme of "gay spirituality," by the way), 70 advertisers gave penis lengths ranging from 7 to 11 inches, with an average of 8.8 inches. It sounds like gay penises are huge. But buyer beware—that "monster" may turn out to be a mythical beast. ▼

Simon LeVay, Ph.D., is well-known for his research on the "gay brain." He is the author of *The Sexual Brain*, *City of Friends* (with Elisabeth Nolas), and *Queer Science* (MIT Press, 1996), and the biomedical thriller *Albrick's Gold* (Richard Kasak Books, 1997). He may be reached at SLeVay@aol.com. For more *Queer Science* columns, visit www.gay.net.

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PHOTO: STEVEN UNDERHILL

America Online ... or Out-line?

by Don Romesburg,
 GLAAD/SF media resource
 center manager

Last Thursday, January 8, on-line news providers C-Net and the New York Times Online reported testimony from a November 7 court hearing that indicates an America Online (AOL) staff member carelessly outed one of its members to a Navy official. Navy Submarine Timothy R. McVeigh (no relation to the Oklahoma City bomber) was discharged from 17 years of service after AOL allegedly gave United States Navy staff legalman Joseph M. Kaiser the name and state of a profile he was investigating.

Kaiser alleges a tech services staff member named Owen just gave him the information when he identified himself as a "third party in receipt of a fax and wanted to confirm the [member] profile sheet, [and] who it belonged to." According to the court transcript, McVeigh's defense attorney asked Kaiser, "He gave you information that links [AOL] members' screen names with the member's actual name? Sounds like that's what you've done."

Kaiser replied, "Yes, that is correct."

The rest of the transcript can be found at McVeigh's Web site at <http://www.geocities.com/Pentagon/9241/KAIS.HTM>.

This brings into serious question the right to privacy on the service provider. AOL has a strict policy that explicitly prohibits the company from giving out any personal information about its members. Unfortunately, according to the U.S. Navy, under oath, this is not always the case, with disastrous results. The Internet has offered the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community a safe place to find out more information about the community. And given the hostile atmosphere of the military and other segments of American society to gay people, breaking established rules of confidentiality can jeopardize people's careers and the health and security of individuals and their families.

By time of publication, AOL did not return comment to GLAAD regarding the matter. To other sources AOL has denied

they told the Navy anything. On January 8, AOL shut down McVeigh's e-mail account without prior notice — the same day the New York Times Online and C-Net ran stories on McVeigh's plight.

Please write AOL and tell them that whether or not the allegations are true, such an invasion of privacy is intolerable. Demand that AOL expediently investigate and publicly respond to the matter.

Contact: Steve Case, President and CEO, America Online, 8619 Westwood Center Drive, Vienna, VA 22182, e-mail: SteveCase@aol.com.

House & Garden's 'domestic bliss' includes gay couple

The January issue of *House & Garden* features a gay male couple, Tom Christopher and Marty Asher, discussing the pitfalls and perils of shopping for plants via mail-order catalogues. The story, written by Billy Norwich, is accompanied by a cartoon of two men looking through the "Bloom and Blossom 1998" catalogue. Without sensation, the magazine includes the two men's humorous and decidedly gay perspective on the subject.

Please thank *House & Garden* for this casual inclusion of gay green thumbs.

Contact: Billy Norwich and Dominaque Browning, Editor, *House & Garden*, 342 Madison Ave., 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10073.

Is Bayliss bi in Baltimore?

The January 2 episode of the critically acclaimed NBC crime series *Homicide: Life on the Street* centered around the murder investigation of a gay man, introducing the possible emergence of one of the series' main characters as bisexual. Detectives Bayliss (Kyle Secor) and Pembleton (Andre Braugher) investigated the brutal murder of a man found dead in a dumpster behind a Baltimore gay restaurant. The restaurant owner, Chris Rawls (Peter Gallagher), worked with the investigators to track down the young, cocky hustler responsible for the murder. Throughout the episode, the officers confronted homophobic attitudes among fellow officers, public outcry by local gay organizations, closeted gay men, and internalized homophobia. By episode's end, Bayliss, unhappy in love, accepted Chris's offer to have dinner with him at the restaurant, leaving Pembleton confused and upset.

This episode tackled a variety of issues of concern to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, but left many unanswered questions for viewers unfamiliar with internalized homophobia, anti-gay violence, and gay culture. While the episode seemed well-intentioned, Gallagher's character is the only gay character not depicted as ashamed, deviant, or criminal. The show's focus on "gay life" as street life, filled with hustlers and more drag queens (flighty, but fierce) than exist in all of Maryland, gave the audience an incomplete picture of the gay com-

munity. Bayliss told his partner that "no matter what you say, these people really know how to make the nightlife count." Still, the show did handle Bayliss's emerging sexual identity well.

According to published reports, *Homicide* will continue the story-line, exploring Bayliss's realization of his bisexuality. With the drama's strength being on character development, and with Bayliss already a respected main character, this plot development would be a welcome addition to prime-time TV.

Please write *Homicide* and encourage them to handle Bayliss's bisexuality with dignity and respect.

Contact: Barry Levinson and Tom Fontana, Executive Producers, *Homicide: Life on the Streets*, NBC Studios, 330 Bob Hope Drive, Burbank, CA 91523, e-mail: homicide@nbc.com.

GQ scores big with NFL story

The January GQ: *Gentlemen's Quarterly* has a lengthy, excellent story about homophobia in the National Football League (NFL) and Dave Kopay's struggle as the only outspoken openly gay professional football player, retired or otherwise.

"Twenty years ago, Kopay was a sociological phenomenon, the first NFL player to publicly acknowledge his homosexuality," writer David Kamp says. "Since he took his great leap, he has been joined by precisely two people: his old Redskins teammate Jerry Smith, whose death from AIDS in 1986 occasioned posthumous discussion of his homosexuality, and a former guard with the New York Giants named Roy Simmons, who outed himself on *Donahue* in 1992 and disappeared from public view."

Kamp points out how all-pervasive the silence around homosexuality in the NFL is today, in spite of Kopay's courageous move in the 1975 to come out. "A whole new generation has come up never knowing there was this gay guy who played football," he writes. He discusses the issue of the overt anti-gay hostility of today's NFL with league spokespeople, sportswriters, and Kopay's former teammates.

Finally, he gives an intimate portrait of Kopay, an unlikely hero and accidental activist. The article ends with the suggestion to Nike to feature Kopay in one of their ad campaigns: "[Kopay] knows what it's like to pay the price of ostracization from the game he loves. He was out there ages ago, with nothing to gain but his own sense of well-being. He was good at what he did. He has survived, even remained in love with the game in spite of everything that's happened. So why not?"

Please thank GQ for this insightful article, which calls for greater awareness around issues of sexual orientation in pro football, while honoring a living gay hero.

Contact: Art Cooper, Editor in Chief, GQ: *Gentlemen's Quarterly*, 350 Madison Ave., 6th Floor, New York, NY 10017-3704, fax: 212-880-8757. ▼



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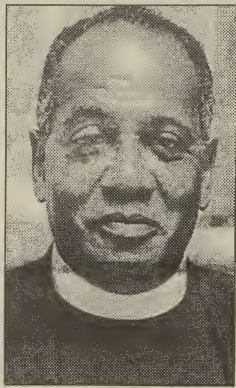
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Harvard's renowned gay preacher at Grace Cathedral service this Saturday

by Cynthia Laird

The nationally-known preacher, teacher, and author Reverend Professor Peter J. Gomes will preach at a special communion service at Grace Cathedral in San Francisco this Saturday, January 17. The service, which is free and open to the public, is the second anniversary celebration of Oasis/California, the gay and lesbian ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of California. A reception will follow.

Gomes is minister of the Memorial Church, and Plummer Professor of Christian Morals at Harvard University. He is also the best-selling author of *The Good Book: Reading the Bible with Mind and Heart*. Gomes holds numerous degrees, and his multi-faceted career has included serving as acting director of Harvard's W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Research. An ordained Baptist minister, Gomes is one of Ameri-



Rev. Peter J. Gomes

ca's most prominent gay clergy, and enjoys an international reputation as a preacher. The Right Reverend Lord Runcie, 102nd Archbishop of Canterbury, wrote of him, "I know Peter Gomes to

be one of the great preachers of his generation."

Oasis/California is the gay and lesbian ministry of the Episcopal Diocese of California. The group celebrates God's presence in gay and lesbian life, and advocates justice for gays and lesbians. The ministry's chief objective is to create a network of "Oasis Congregations." Episcopal congregations that actively extend themselves to welcome gays and lesbians.

Oasis/California is based in San Francisco. The Episcopal Diocese of California comprises 87 Episcopal churches, with 40,000 members, in San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Northern Santa Clara counties. The diocese is part of the Episcopal Church in the United States, and the worldwide Anglican communion. The bishop of the diocese is the Right Reverend William E. Swing. ▼

Saturday's service at Grace Cathedral starts at 3 p.m. For more information about Oasis/California, write 110 Julian Avenue, San Francisco CA 94103, or call (415) 522-0222. The e-mail address is oasiscalif@aol.com; the web site is www.dioical.org/oasis.

Episcopals install new 'radical center' presiding bishop

by Bob Roehr

Nowhere has the gay and lesbian struggle for equality been more fierce than on Sunday mornings. Convictions of faith arouse strong passions, both pro and con. It seems that more progress has been made, more battles won, within the Episcopal Church than in any other major denomination.

A 1976 resolution of the General Convention, the Church's governing body, declared "all persons are children of God." Today, more than a hundred openly gay or lesbian people serve as priests.

Griswald was one of more than 100 bishops to call sexual orientation "morally neutral."

Last summer, the body extended medical benefits to same-sex partners of clergy and lay employees, but in a close vote deferred a blessing of same-sex unions.

The Church installed a new presiding bishop in a ceremony at the National Cathedral in Washington, DC on Saturday, January 10. Frank Tracy Griswald III, 60, will lead them for the next nine years. The former bishop of Chicago is seen as a moderate among the field of five who sought the office. The position as head of the Church in the United States has great moral but limited administrative authority, since the 109 dioceses are largely autonomous.

Griswald sees himself as "a very traditional person" commit-

ted to resolving differences within the church through dialog. He told the *Washington Post*, "My sense is that we're in the midst of a profound cultural shift that is deeper and broader than the experience of any ecclesiastical household."

In 1994, he was one of more than 100 bishops to sign a resolution calling sexual orientation "morally neutral." It said that gay relationships that were "faithful, monogamous, committed" were worthy of honor, although it stopped short of a full church blessing of same-sex unions.

Louie Crew is founder of Integrity, the group for lesbians and

gays within the Episcopal Church. It intentionally chose not to support a candidate in this election, though individual members supported various of the five candidates, including Griswald.

Crew called the new presiding bishop "superb ... he will not be someone who will be waving a sword. He uses the phrase, 'the radical center,' which is an appropriate Anglican oxymoron. He is a deeply spiritual man, and therefore the work that is done will have substance and not just flash."

Integrity expects the advancement of gays and lesbians within the Episcopal Church to continue apace. That includes the likely adoption of a blessing of same-sex unions at the next General Convention in the year 2000. ▼

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Boy Scouts' policies go before court

United Press International

The California Supreme Court has heard arguments over whether the Boy Scouts of America violated state law by denying leadership and membership positions to youths who say they are gay or don't believe in God.

The court will have to determine the hotly contested issue of whether voluntary nonprofit associations must comply with the same anti-discrimination law as California businesses.

Berkeley Eagle Scout Timothy Curran sued the Mount Diablo Council of the Boy Scouts in 1981 after his application to be an assistant scoutmaster was denied because of his sexual orientation.

During his five years with the organization, he earned his Eagle Scout badge and helped form a troop for the deaf. Not long after he turned 18, members of his troop and the council saw him profiled in a news article on gay youth.

The second case, also being argued in Los Angeles, involves twin Orange County boys who sued after being denied admission to a troop because they do not believe in God.

In that case, *Randall vs. Orange County Council of the Boy Scouts*, both the trial court and appeals court held that the group is a business. That ruling is at odds with the Court of Appeal ruling in the Curran case, which found the Scouts are not a business.

If the high court agrees that the Boy Scouts are not a business, the court must still decide whether its membership policies are protected under the First Amendment right of association. A ruling is expected within 90 days. ▼

Petaluma Scout

◀ page 1

oaths to heart, and he is progressing in his cause with a deliberation worthy of an activist of any age.

His knowledge of the plight of gay kids, including his awareness of the issue of gay teen suicide, is impressive. "That is one of the things that gay kids will do because of being made fun of," he said. "Some people don't want to be gay because they think they're going to be made fun of. People go, 'You fag,' or 'You fruit.'"

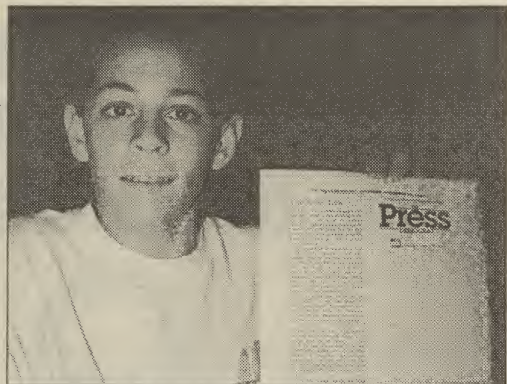
Asked to send a message to gay kids, he replied, "If you're gay, that's the way you're born. Just be who you are." But, he acknowledged, that isn't enough. He wants gay kids to be included like everybody else in the Boy Scouts.

"The Girl Scouts and the 4-H clubs don't discriminate against gays," he told the B.A.R. "I think the Boy Scouts are a great organization, but I know kids who are gay, and I feel that gay kids should have the same opportunities, because you go on adventures and do a lot of great things. You learn a lot. But the Boy Scouts are teaching discrimination."

He has received dozens of phone calls since his letter to the editor was printed. Most of the calls have been supportive, but he responded to the anti-gay calls with facts. "They think that kids shouldn't be introduced to gay people ... Some people think that if there is a gay Scoutmaster, that he will molest a kid, but that's not really true, because you don't molest someone just because of what your sexual orientation is. Like, if I'm gay, I'm not just going to molest someone because I'm gay. Studies show that most[ly] heterosexuals molest kids. Mostly a family member or a close relative."

'It's not kind'

No newcomer to social issues, young Steven, a Life rank scout, has been at the front of two previous grassroots efforts. Last year, after leading a successful clothes drive for the homeless, he raised money to buy an impoverished senior citizen a videotape player,



Steven Cozza with a copy of the letter he sent to *The Press Democrat*.

the old man's sole diversion.

Obviously, he does not shy away from the big issues. He referred to the "many lawsuits" now facing the BSA [see accompanying story, this page], including the William and Michael Randall case in Orange County, California, saying, "They kicked an 11-year-old Boy Scout out of Boy Scouts for saying he didn't believe in God. I think that was bad, too. Because he may not even have had a religion. I think that was wrong."

There are currently four lawsuits against the BSA, according to Taylor Flynn of the ACLU Foundation of Southern California. *Merino v. San Diego Council of Boy Scouts* involves a gay scout; *Yeaw v. Boy Scouts of America* involves an 11-year-old girl who wants to join the Boy Scouts. The famous case on the gay issue, *Timothy Curran v. Mount Diablo Council of the Boy Scouts*, has been ripening on the courthouse steps since 1975, but finally got a hearing with the California Supreme Court on Monday, January 5, 1998 in Los Angeles, along with the *Randall v. Orange County* case about the boys who refuse to pledge allegiance to God.

The BSA will not allow Steven to wear his uniform for interviews, or to have his troop number showing in photographs, under threat of expulsion, but Steven, in gentle protest, has sewn a rainbow ribbon onto his uni-

form. Steven also uses passive resistance techniques by refusing to say the Scout Law. "I don't say it at the meetings. The Scout Law is this whole thing saying that the 'Scout is kind, courteous, brave. But the reason why I don't say it is because a lot of the things they say ... aren't true. It's not really kind to discriminate against people, so that's not good."

Steven's idea to rally signatures on petitions and get media attention just may work. He reasoned, "Right now they are being sued by a lot of people. I think they should change the policy, because we're telling as many people as we can about the problem. We are stirring up a lot of fuss because a lot of people don't know yet. [When] most people know and are against the policy, then I know the BSA are going to change, because everybody's against them. So I think they should change."

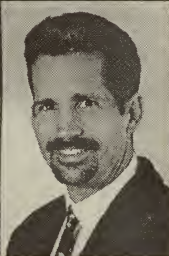
A press conference will be held at 12 noon on Saturday, January 17, and a petition signature rally will be held all that day in front of Lucky's supermarket on Lakeville Highway in Petaluma. ▼

For more information, contact Scouting For All founders Steven Cozza or Dave Rice at (707) 763-8378 or (707) 778-0564. E-mail daverice@bigfoot.com or cozzahived@aol.com.

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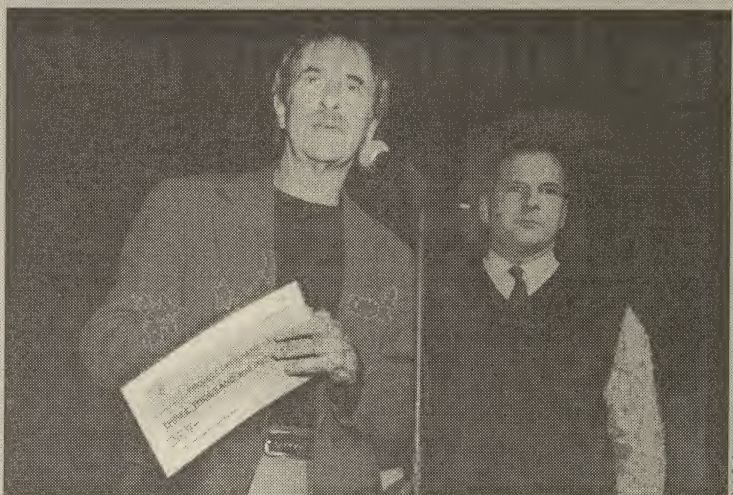
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Heart transplant

◀ page 1

to balloon. He learned that about 10 percent of all people with HIV suffer the condition. Yet others in his family had similar problems, leading to speculation that he might have inherited the disease. And during his military stint, he had been stationed in Panama, where sailors and soldiers, along with civilians, sometimes contract a certain parasite that triggers heart swelling.

Only HIV made a difference to Brisbane's doctors, the young man says. The best they could do, they told him, was give him medicine to reduce the heart swelling.

"They could at least have done a micro-valve surgery to tighten the left ventricle valve," says Brisbane of the VA doctors. "But they never offered me that." Nor, he adds, did they bother to put him on the waiting list for a new heart, since they had ruled out a transplant.

He was shunted from one cardiologist to another, he says, and each one told him the same sad story.

"They sent me to one doctor who looked at my heart and at the computer information, shook her head, and said, 'We've done all we can do for you.' It saddened me. She treated me like she was angry with me. I felt bad and had to control and contain myself."

No defeatism, please

In January, he says, he was told he might live another two or three years, and that there was nothing further anyone could do for him.

"I get tired of people telling me that," says Brisbane. "I don't need their defeatism."

If life expectancy is the determining factor in whether someone gets selected for a transplant, asks Brisbane, "why is it that some very old World War II vets get whatever they need?"

According to Jeff Getty, an activist with ACT UP/Golden Gate, the answer is institutionalized prejudice toward people with HIV.

"People with HIV are often left to die despite the fact that several well-publicized operations during the 1980s have shown HIV-positive organ transplantation to be safe and effective," says Getty, who himself underwent a successful bone-marrow transplant that

made international headlines in December 1995.

According to Getty, more than 17,000 organ transplants are performed in the US each year. While the number of patients needing transplants far exceeds the number of available organs, patients with HIV are not even allowed on the waiting lists, and so are denied even a chance at a longer life.

In many cases, Getty adds, doctors never even bother to tell patients with HIV that they need transplants, since they are disinclined to perform the operations.

The fact is, says Getty, the United Network for Organ Sharing, which contracts with the government's Health and Human Services Department to oversee organ-transplant waiting lists and establish general guidelines for the procedures, claims no valid medical reason exists for denying organ transplants to anyone who tests positive for HIV but who is asymptomatic.

In Brisbane's case, says Getty, the decision by the VA to deny him a heart transplant is not grounded in medical science, but rather stems from prejudice.

"Heart surgeons tend to be conservative Republican types" who hold a disdain for the lifestyles of HIV-positive patients, Getty believes.

Survival about equal

Getty, who has gone to bat against VA doctors on Brisbane's behalf, says that studies show that transplants work on people with HIV. He points to the University of Pittsburgh's medical program, where surgeons have transplanted more than three dozen organs into HIV-positive patients. He adds that the head of the university's HIV-positive organ transplant program, Dr. John Fung, reports that early clinical data show only a slightly reduced survival rate for HIV-positive organ recipients when compared to HIV-negative organ recipients.

So far, however, doctors at the San Francisco VA Medical Center have budged only slightly as a result of Getty's efforts on behalf of Brisbane. He says they have now agreed to perform micro-valve surgery on Brisbane's heart, a procedure Getty claims "is potentially lethal, more risky than what a normal person would get."

"They'll cut out about one-third of the heart wall and repair the valve to make it functional

again," says Brisbane. "But they're still telling me there's no way I can get a transplant."

Brisbane feels lucky to be getting as much as he has, and regrets that it took a high-powered, relentless activist like Getty to force the VA's hand.

"Because of Jeff," he says, the VA cardiologists are now "having more conferences about my health condition and options."

But, he adds, the fact remains that "a lot of people here view me as a dead man walking." ▼

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California AIDS deaths plummet 60 percent

by Lidia Wasowicz, UPI Science Writer

California saw a whopping 60 percent plunge in AIDS deaths in the first half of 1997.

The stunning statistics were released in a study by the California Department of Health Services. Doctors attribute the dramatic decline primarily to new antiviral drugs and, to a lesser extent, increased safe sex practices.

The state records show 1,112 California residents died of AIDS-related causes in the first six months of 1997 (about six residents a day). That compares to 2,788 (or more than 15 per day) in the same period the previous year.

Nationally, the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta reports a 23 percent drop in AIDS deaths between 1995 and 1996.

Wayne Sausada, director of the California Office of AIDS, told UPI several factors were at work—but one appears to stand above the rest.

In his words, "Very clearly, a major factor has been the substantial investment that California and the federal government have been making to provide access to new therapies," particularly protease inhibitors.

While availability of the new drugs varies from state to state, California has made a major effort to make the therapies accessible to anyone who needs them.

The state's AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP) provides the medicines free, or at limited cost, to those with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$50,000 a year. The drugs can cost as much as \$12,000 a year.

ACT UP/Golden Gate member Mike Donnelly was pleased with the state news. "I think it proves that triple drug combination therapies are working, and that we need to get them out across the country for people."

Donnelly, who is also a member of the community constituent group of the national AIDS Clinical Trial Group, also said that the death rate decline means there is more time for research now. "This is a brief time when we can intensify research for a cure, because this [drug therapies] is not a cure," said Donnelly.

In his budget proposal released

Friday, January 9, Governor Pete Wilson called for a \$35.9 million increase in ADAP funding in 1998. Matt Aquilera, principal program budget analyst, told UPI that with that increase, the federal and state money allocated to the program would total about \$130 million.

"Everyone is still holding his breath," Sausada said. "While we're tremendously encouraged, we're keeping our fingers crossed on both hands. We continue to monitor what's happening with protease inhibitors. We know there is concern the effects might not be long-lasting; we hope they are."

"It is terribly exciting to see this dramatic change. It's one thing to be excited when you see these statistics on paper; it's tremendously more satisfying when you think of the individuals with whom you work and associate on a daily basis who are still alive and healthier than they would have been without the research advances and the funding we invested."

To a lesser degree, researchers also attributed the decrease in deaths to safer sexual practices that have cut HIV transmission rates. ▼

Conant to lead HIV gene therapy trials

by Mike Salinas

The University of California San Francisco will presently host the first clinical trials of a new form of gene therapy designed to stop the progression of HIV. The Phase I trials will begin once the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) clears an Investigational New Drug application submitted by Enzo Therapeutics, the company that devised the genetic therapy.

Marcus A. Conant, MD, a leading physician in the management of HIV-1 infected patients, and Morton J. Cowan, MD, an expert in the management of immunocompromised patients, will be the principal investigators of the trial, which is intended to evaluate the safety of Enzo's genetic therapy in patients infected with HIV-1.

In the May edition of the *Journal of Virology*, Enzo researchers and their collaborators reported success using Enzo's genetic therapy

approach to protect human cells from the AIDS virus in vitro. It was shown that CD4+ immune cells with the antiviral genes were able to resist repeated attacks by HIV over a prolonged period.

According to the company, Enzo scientists developed a gene delivery system that localizes primarily in the cell nucleus, where it could be most effective in inhibiting viral growth. This Stealth Vector™ was also designed to be "in-

page 26 ►

CARE funds

◀ page 1

the AIDS Office.

"We got congratulated by HRSA and [San Francisco] Representative Nancy Pelosi's office for getting only a 2.2 percent reduction," Piland told the B.A.R. Although he has not yet seen a comparison of how the other EMAs did, Piland said the AIDS Office has been told that San Francisco's cut was one of the least in terms of dollar amounts.

This marks the second consecutive year that the DPH's CARE application has been highly rated for the portion of CARE funds

that are awarded on a competitive basis. The CARE award received by the EMA was \$37.3 million for the 1997 funding cycle, which was about \$2 million more than AIDS Office staff had expected.

For 1998, the planning council will have to determine some funding cuts for 1998, but they won't be near the level feared by people when they met last August. During the prioritization retreat, councilmembers did make several changes and initiated a multi-phase, multi-year effort to reform CARE services so they prioritize clients' severe needs. The 17 service categories used in previous years were collapsed into nine

groups that are more logically linked and reflected the need for improved integration, according to the DPH grant application.

The planning council has its next regular meeting scheduled for Monday, January 26, but it is not known when they will discuss and ultimately vote on the anticipated service reductions. ▼

The planning council meeting starts at 4:30 p.m. in the sixth floor conference room at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 10 United Nations Plaza, near Market and Seventh streets.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

About 500 AIDS Summit seats available

About 100 policy changes to be discussed

by Cynthia Laird

People still have time to register for Mayor Willie Brown's Summit on AIDS and HIV, scheduled to take place next Tuesday, January 27 at the Masonic Auditorium. About 3,000 people have been invited to the event to examine the challenges and opportunities created by recent medical advances in HIV/AIDS treatments, and review other important issues, including housing and workplace entry and re-entry. This leaves some 500 seats available for members of the public on a first-come, first-served basis.

The summit is free, but advance registration is required.

Organizers have been planning the summit and gathering mountains of information for the conference over last six months. After the mayor appointed a steering committee, several subcommittees of leading experts and activists were established to focus on aspects of the epidemic, including access and adherence to new treatments; prevention; workplace entry and re-entry; testing and reporting; insurance; housing; and funding. The daylong summit will be a culmination of input from all of those meetings. Drs. Marcus Conant and Thomas Coates led the planning process.

Summit coordinator Dick Pabich told the B.A.R. that about 100 basic policy recommendations have been drafted in a 150-page report. "The recommendations are for change in city policy," Pabich said, adding that the Department of Public Health and service providers will be urged to

act on the recommendations. The mayor said the recommended policy changes are needed so that San Francisco "continues to respond effectively in the new AIDS environment."

Brown noted the importance the city has played over the course of the AIDS epidemic, which is now entering its 17th year. "From the earliest days... San Francisco has taken the lead in crafting a compassionate and comprehensive program to fight this disease, creating a full spectrum of services to prevent new infections and care for those who are ill," he said.

"The summit will bring together the key players from San Francisco and around the nation who are needed to act on these recommendations."

Dean Goodwin, the mayor's liaison to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, told the B.A.R., "The mayor is very excited about the possibilities and prospects the summit brings and hopes it will fulfill expectations of people in the community and the people who have put in so much work over the last six months."

Paul Vander Waerd, a co-chair of the workplace entry subcommittee, was also enthusiastic about the upcoming summit. "The course of treatment and social service needs have changed so dramatically and quickly as a result of AIDS treatment advances, that a citywide process became necessary to ensure that the AIDS service delivery system remains fully responsive to consumer needs," Vander Waerd said. "The recommendations that will be presented at the Summit on HIV and AIDS will have a major im-

pact in ensuring that people living with AIDS continue to receive appropriate services."

Drugs and demographics

Brown and summit planners are keenly aware that while the new drug therapies have benefited many people living with HIV/AIDS, they are not a cure.

"They are usually difficult to take, often ineffective, and are not easily accessible to many who might benefit from them," the mayor stated. "And we must address the changing demographics of the epidemic, which increasingly is shifting to lower-income communities, people of color, and women."

Gay and bisexual men continue to account for the vast majority of AIDS cases in San Francisco, according to the Department of Public Health's quarterly AIDS surveillance report: 362 of the 489 diagnosed cases between January and September 1997, or 74 percent, are gay or bisexual men. Of the 489 diagnosed AIDS cases, 452, or 92.4 percent, are men, and 37 cases, or 7.6 percent, are women.

AIDS cases in the African-American community have increased dramatically. In 1992, African-Americans comprised 12.1 percent of the city's AIDS case; in 1996, that figure had risen to 17.7 percent, and it was at 16.8 percent as of September 1997.

Live on the Internet

Pabich said the AIDS Summit will be widely available for people who cannot attend; Channel 54 will tape the conference for later broadcast. Additionally, the summit will be webcast live over the



Dean Goodwin: "The mayor is very excited about the possibilities and prospects the summit brings."

Internet.

The preliminary schedule calls for presentations in each of the issue areas, and Pabich said the time allotted each topic includes questions and comments from the audience. Written testimony from people will also be accepted. The final report on the summit, expected this spring, will include public comments and the written testimony.

Following the summit, all of the reports will be available on the University of California, San Francisco's web site, Pabich added.

Brown wants attendees to stay for the entire conference because critical issues will be discussed throughout the day; perhaps for that reason, the summit will offer attendees free Continental breakfasts and lunch. ▼

To register for the Summit on AIDS and HIV, call (415) 554-6657. The summit will take place from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.; registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The Masonic Auditorium is located on Nob Hill at 1111 California Street.

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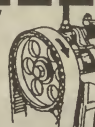
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Livermore PWA claims that bookstore sting violated civil rights

by Ron Lazar

Richard Hamilton-Gibbs, a PWA on permanent disability retirement after serving as chairman of an East Bay computer firm, will face criminal charges next Monday, January 26 in Livermore for public indecency. Hamilton-Gibbs is one of 24 men arrested in the Livermore "Not Too Naughty" bookstore sting in March 1997 and accused of indecent behavior, but is the only one of the two dozen willing to legally challenge the accusations in front of a jury. He has hired Attorney Mike Armstrong of Palo Alto to represent him.

Hamilton-Gibbs was arrested by an undercover police officer who claims to have witnessed him masturbating in one of the six video booths at the Not Too Naughty bookstore, located at 2121 First Street in the East Bay suburb of Livermore, nearly next door to the City Hall.

In an exclusive interview with the *B.A.R.*, Hamilton-Gibbs said, "If the law is meant to protect those who would be offended by the sight of an erect penis, I did not break the law, because I did not offend an innocent or unwilling party." He said it only makes sense that anyone who would be offended by watching a man masturbate "would not buy tokens and enter a 21-and-over restricted area to watch adult videos in the first place."

Moreover, he said, the officer "made no indication that he was offended."

"Rather," he said, "the officer would have had to contort himself to see what I was doing. In fact, since the doors on the booths are cut three feet up from the floor, I was trying to keep myself from being seen. Even the police report says that I attempted to hide myself."

As the Alameda County *Tri-Valley Herald* reported last August, undercover officers testified that they had to lower their heads to within three feet of the floor to observe any conduct under the doors of the other booths. In many cases, men in the booths tried to shield their genitals from view while they masturbated, police testified. The *Herald* quoted gay San Francisco attorney Tom

Steele, who represented the bookstore, explaining that to be legally culpable, "the person charged must know ... of the presence of somebody who would be offended by the behavior."

'He asked if I was police'

The undercover officers did not report being or acting offended in the court and police documents reviewed by the *B.A.R.* On the contrary, some of the men arrested were led to believe the undercover officer was actively looking for sex, and officers made false statements to entrap the men for arrest.

In one example relating to a man in the case who prefers to remain unidentified, Officer B. Lewis stated in his report, "He then asked if I was a police officer. I told him, 'No,' and asked him if he was a police officer. He said, 'No.' He then said, 'I was wondering if I could give you a blow-job.'"

"I said, 'Yeah, where do you want to go, the park?' He said he wasn't from around the Livermore area and wanted to know if the park was heavily patrolled by the police. I told him, 'No.' The subject drove his truck over to the park while I walked.

"While walking to the park, I told Det. Graves via the body wire that I would be on the west side of the park near the park benches. As soon as the subject parked his truck and walked into the park, Det. Graves directed Officer Davis ... to our location. As soon as the subject saw the marked patrol car approaching the park, he started walking away from me. Officer Davis contacted the subject at the southwest corner of the park.

"I went back to the bookstore and continued the decoy operation."

Although the undercover sting operation ostensibly targeted prostitutes, the *B.A.R.* found after extensively reviewing court and police papers in all 24 cases that only one man was charged with prostitution, and that charged was dropped because the alleged incident occurred two blocks from the bookstore.

Lewis's report, which was used to charge the man for soliciting prostitution, clearly shows the officer instigated talk of money for sex. "I told the subject I was unemployed and that the reason I



Richard Hamilton-Gibbs: "I live here under American law, and will fight for what I believe in."

was at the bookstore was for money," Lewis reported, then said he established the price of \$20 for oral sex and added, "I told him I could negotiate."

Cost

The total costs of the investigation, legal preparation, and hearings are still accumulating. The Livermore police were unable to provide the press with figures, but they assigned at least ten officers to be directly involved in the sting operation, including one sergeant and three detectives for at least two weeks. Livermore Police Chief Ron Scott said the cost of the two-week investigation was "not an insignificant amount."

Livermore Deputy City Attorney Gabrielle Whelan said she spent five working days to prepare her case. It is estimated that the city of Livermore spent tens of thousands of dollars to prosecute this issue. According to invoices of last October from Judicial Arbitration and Mediation Services, at least \$10,900 were spent on proceedings, including the cost of hiring San Francisco retired Superior Judge Edward Stern.

Stern commented, "In over 50 years in this business, I've never heard of a proceeding like this."

Constitutional questions

Livermore Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Pat Davis called the Not Too Naughty bookstore "a legitimate business."

The chamber's officials describe it as upstanding, and Membership Director Patti Groth said she and friends go to the store to buy novelty gifts, massage oils, cards, and sex toys for their spouses. The bookstore has operated, according to city and police records, without a single public complaint in over 10 years.

Last spring, Livermore Police Chief Scott revoked the bookstore's license after the sting operation, but Stern ruled that action was illegal, and the permit was restored, according to Attorney Gill Sperlein of the San Francisco law firm Steele, Clarence and Buckley, who represented the bookstore.

Sperlein said, "Judge Stern ruled in our favor [last September] and said that the city of Livermore did not have proper grounds for revoking the business permit of the bookstore. It is a victory not just for the bookstore, but for any citizen who patronizes it, or anybody who values the Constitution." Steele said Livermore's bookstore ordinance is unconstitutional.

According to Hamilton-Gibbs, the constitutional violations also extended to bookstore patrons during the sting. "Every single person who left that store was stopped by police on a bogus traffic [violation]," he told the *B.A.R.* "The police officer insisted on being given their place of employment. That information was later used to go and arrest them at their

place of employment in a high-profile and very embarrassing manner. There are civil rights abuses all the way through this."

Hamilton-Gibbs, a foreign national originally from New Zealand here with a green card, said, "I believe very strongly in the freedoms granted in the American Constitution. I live here under American law, and will fight for what I believe in." That willingness to fight has had its consequences, he acknowledged. "I have AIDS," he said, "and this whole saga has been severely injurious to my physical and emotional health."

Still, he considers himself luckier than some of the other men caught in the sting. "It has destroyed some of their livelihoods," he said. "For example, there is a schoolteacher; charges [against him] were never pushed, but the police put all the information in the hands of the school board - which terminated him."

According to the police reports, the Livermore police attempted to entrap the teacher with child pornography. Court documents show that an officer testified he tried to get the teacher to accept child pornography, and the teacher refused. But the last comment in the police statement is, "I will attempt ... [to call him] at a later date to see if [he] will accept delivery of child pornography."

Police Chief Scott confirmed that the department is not giving up. "I intend to watch it very closely, and if I see other violations, we'll be back at this all over again," Scott said, promising "absolutely" a repeat undercover investigation.

Hamilton-Gibbs is planning a class action suit seeking damages estimated upwards of \$27 million from the City of Livermore, pointing to alleged police violations of civil liberties, false arrest, entrapment, and other irregularities. Lawyers or parties interested in the case may call him at (510) 373-1983, page him at (800) 560-1307, or e-mail him at rhg@ccnet.com. ▼

Thanks to Alameda County *Tri-Valley Herald* reporter Sean Holstege, who contributed to this story.

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Pot clubs face new threat from Clinton's Justice Department

by Mark Mardon

All was business as usual the night of Monday, January 12 at Dennis Peron's Cannabis Cultivators Club (CCC). A threatened raid by state police never materialized, allowing dozens of clients to relax in the club's smoking lounges and queue up at the dispensary counters to purchase medical marijuana openly while they still could.

The atmosphere inside the bustling club was upbeat, almost festive, even as club members discussed the latest threat to pot clubs in California. On Friday, January 9, the U.S. Department of Justice filed six civil lawsuits in federal court in San Francisco and San Jose, seeking to close six cannabis clubs, including Peron's.

"We have acted to halt repeated and widespread violations of the federal Controlled Substances Act," U.S. Attorney Michael J. Yamaguchi told reporters at a hastily called press conference at the Federal Building in San Francisco. "The act makes it unlawful to cultivate, distribute, or possess marijuana, except for research approved by the Food and Drug Administration and registered with the Drug Enforcement Administration."

The action drew swift response from cannabis-club operators. Supervisor Tom Ammiano, and one state senator who vows to fight the federal crackdown.

Peron's lawyer, J. David Nick, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that his client intends to defend his right to operate the Cannabis Cultivators Club as he has since 6 million California voters overwhelmingly passed Proposition 215 in November 1996. The voters made it clear, he said, that they approve the cultivation and use of marijuana by patients with AIDS, cancer, and other medical conditions.

"Nothing in the Constitution gives the federal government the right to supplant state laws," said Nick. He cited the 10th Amendment as justification for the state to grant its medically needy citizens the right to smoke pot for their health.

"I'm taking a page out of the Civil Rights era," said a feisty Peron following Yamaguchi's press conference. "I know we have a formidable foe, but we'll stand by our sick and dying patients. We're not going to the back of the bus any more."

Relief for Lungren?

Peron suspects California Attorney General Dan Lungren "is breathing a sigh of relief" now that the feds have stepped in, allowing Lungren to hold off raiding pot clubs statewide as he had threatened last week. Despite Lungren's posturing, Peron said, the attorney general, who has announced his intention to run for governor, can ill afford to alienate all those who voted for Prop. 215.

Still, Peron added, Lungren has petitioned anew in Superior Court, seeking an order to close the clubs on January 29.

"At this point, it's anybody's guess when or if Lungren will act to close the clubs."

At City Hall in San Francisco, Supervisor Tom Ammiano announced he and the Harvey Milk Democratic Club would be hold-



Weedwhackers: U.S. Attorney Michael J. Yamaguchi and DEA Special-Agent-in-Charge Michelle Leonhart at the Jan. 9 press conference.

ing a Town Hall meeting on the issues. San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan and Police Chief Fred Lau will attend the Town Hall meeting to report on the city's role and responsibility in the matter of Proposition 215.

"We have confidence that District Attorney Hallinan and Police Chief Lau share the commitment of our community to provide medicine to those who need it," said Ammiano.

"San Francisco voters approved Proposition 215 to help ease the pain and suffering of individuals with AIDS, cancer, and other catastrophic illnesses by providing them legal and simplified means to obtain marijuana for medicinal purposes," Ammiano said. He added that the Board of Supervisors already passed a resolution making prosecution of marijuana possession the city's lowest priority.

Meanwhile, at a press conference in the state Capitol in Sacramento, State Senator John Vasconcellos (D-Santa Clara) expressed outrage at both the state and federal actions against the medical-marijuana clubs. He announced plans for a Public Safety Committee summit on the issue, and plans to develop legislation to strengthen Proposition 215. He also promised to seek Assembly approval for a three-year medical-marijuana study by the University of California. Vasconcellos urged Californians to sign a protest letter to President Clinton over the Justice Department's apparent contempt for California law.

'Leave us alone'

The federal suit, filed against two cannabis clubs in San Francisco and one each in Oakland, Santa Cruz, Ukiah, and Marin, states that the "defendants cannot justify their conduct by relying upon Proposition 215. ... Given the supremacy of federal over state law, Proposition 215 provides no defense to defendants' continuing violations of federal law."

Documents filed by the Justice Department in the suits reveal thorough investigations by the Drug Enforcement Agency into the business of the cannabis clubs. The undercover operations took place from May through December of last year. The documents detail numerous instances of

agents purchasing marijuana from the clubs, and observing dozens of legitimate clients doing likewise. They also report that DEA agents had the clubs under surveillance during that period, observing thousands of people entering them.

"It is reasonable to infer that the overwhelming majority of individuals entering [the clubs] did so to purchase marijuana," the

suit maintains.

Inside the CCC on Monday night, 36-year-old David Martin, a person with AIDS, sat at a lounge table with friends and smoked some of the weed he freely admits obtaining from the club. He said the doctor-prescribed herb helped bring him back from the brink of death.

"It's the most effective drug for controlling nausea," said Martin.

It helped restore his appetite, allowing him to rebound to his current 160 pounds from a critical 118 when he got sick two years ago and began to waste away.

Martin credits the CCC with providing more than just pot. He said it offers a healing environment, a "cool speakeasy without alcohol" where people can "hang out, chill, and make friends with all kinds of people" whose only commonality is their desire to ease their suffering from glaucoma, cancer, HIV, or whatever other disease afflicts them.

"I think the federal government and Dan Lungren should leave us alone," said Martin. "We voted for this."

The problem is, Martin added, stuffy government officials "don't like us to have a good time."

When asked what he thought would happen to the CCC and other medical-marijuana clubs, Martin sighed, leaned back, and took another long toke.

"It takes time to tear down prohibition," he said. ▼

A San Francisco town hall meeting to discuss medical marijuana issues will be held on Saturday, January 24, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m., at the Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, located at 4325 19th St. at Collingwood.

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Smiling and swearing



New city Treasurer Susan Leal is embraced by a well-wisher following her Jan. 8 swearing-in ceremony. Leal reports that the Treasury employees she's met so far "have a lot of good ideas and seem to be very supportive."

HRC swaps candidates in San Diego race

... And oh boy, are some GOPs pissed off!

by Bob Roehr

The Human Rights Campaign (HRC) has made an early endorsement of Christine Kehoe, the lesbian member of the San Diego City Council who is running for Congress. She will oppose incumbent Republican Brian Bilbray, a candidate HRC supported in his last reelection bid. Some people are questioning both the endorsement and the timing of the announcement.

Winnie Stachelberg, HRC's political director, said the group's support was based upon Kehoe being "a fantastic public servant," and "disappointments" with Bilbray. She called "his refusal to cosponsor the Employment Non-Discrimination Act [ENDA] one of the biggest disappointments." While he will not cosponsor the bill, Bilbray has pledged to vote for ENDA.

Stachelberg maintains that his record on gay and lesbian issues is "very mixed." Among the votes she cited were ones made in a previous session of Congress. "In spite of that, we did endorse him for a number of reasons, including the fact that we were hoping he would endorse ENDA and he would be a leading advocate of HIV funding. It hasn't translated."

Log Cabin Republicans executive director Rich Tafel challenges that evaluation. He says the Congressman's positions are no different from when HRC endorsed him last year. On gay rights legislation and AIDS funding, "Bilbray has been key." He sits on the Commerce committee which has jurisdiction over those issues, and has shown interest in them. "We've relied on him behind the scenes, particularly on AIDS issues," says Tafel.

"What is HRC's criteria for endorsing candidates?" he asks. "Invariably it changes. When they want to endorse someone they change the criteria."

Barrett Brick, a Republican and community leader in the District of Columbia, calls HRC's endorsement "discrimination based on sexual orientation. ... The message HRC is sending to supporters such as Bilbray is, in effect, 'No matter how supportive you are, if you don't sleep with someone of the same sex, we'll dump

you for someone who does.' It seems that HRC has become an impediment to the advancement of gay equality."

Purpose and strategy

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund endorsed Kehoe in November. That was to be expected; its sole purpose is to help elect openly gay candidates. The Victory Fund believes she is a credible, viable candidate, and eagerly supports her.

But HRC has a different purpose, to advance gay and lesbian interests at the federal level. It has worked well with Bilbray, as demonstrated by its past endorsement, and must work with him in 1998 on legislation before Congress.

Stachelberg characterizes Bilbray's office as "professional," and doesn't believe the endorsement of Kehoe will translate into poorer working relations with the representative. She says, "It will not negatively impact our work with other Republicans."

That is a difficult argument for some to swallow. After all, the rationale for endorsements and campaign contributions is to build ties with a candidate. Logic dictates that shifting support to their opponent will strain those ties. Tafel believes the endorsement will have "a domino effect among Republicans." If Bilbray can't get their endorsement, then how many can?

The charge of Democratic partisanship on HRC's part is not a new one. Flash points last year included the Horn-Zbur congressional race in California, and the Kerry-Weld Senate race in Massachusetts.

HRC board member Rob Morris says the Kehoe endorsement is "particularly interesting within the context of remarks Elizabeth [Birch] made earlier" to the HRC board at their November meeting. According to Morris, she said, "Wherever possible [where] incumbents have been gay-affirming, it is the responsibility of HRC to support them. That should be a steadfast rule." He believes "that we all left with the conclusion that should be a shared goal."

HRC is "an organization that keeps saying they want to support Republicans, but can't find any," Tafel says that their talk "is under-

mined here, because when it comes down to the wire, they always go with the Democrats."

Although Stachelberg points to HRC's early endorsement of Connie Morella (R-Maryland) over challenger Ralph Neas, former executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, the argument doesn't placate most gay Republicans. Because Morella is often called the most liberal Republican in Congress, her opponent is not gay, and more importantly, she is a sure bet for reelection, they say support of Morella is no real litmus test of bipartisanship for HRC.

Flack

There seem to be other factors behind the endorsement. One observer recalled that HRC "caught so much flack in 1996" for not talking to San Diegans before endorsing Bilbray. He speculated that the endorsement is "a bit of mending of local political fences." Another was more blunt, saying, "They just didn't want to be screamed at."

Tafel concurs. He says HRC's "criteria is where they are going to feel the most pressure. I think it also raises a question of the integrity of the organization, because the message is: whatever side pressures HRC the most wins." He mentioned the 1966 election, where pressure forced HRC to issue its first dual endorsement by adding gay Democrat Rick Zbur to their nod to incumbent Republican Steve Horn.

It seems likely that money is somewhere at the root of the decision: HRC is going to trumpet the three lesbians running for Congress in its fundraising appeals—bringing in far more than it can legally contribute to those campaigns. If the trio is to be HRC's fundraising cash cows of the year, the organization can't use Kehoe's name to raise money unless it first endorses her.

Tafel wouldn't be surprised. He says he understands the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF), even when he disagrees with them, because its decisions are based on political principles. "But when I try to understand HRC's logic, it usually does boil down to fundraising. Not strategy, not ideology, but public relations and fundraising." ▼

Domestic partner bills lurch in Sacto

by Marghe Covino

As a member of the Assembly Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security Committee (PERS), Assemblymember Carole Migden of San Francisco publicly commended that committee last Wednesday, January 7 for its passage of AB 427 by Assemblymember Wally Knox, D-Hollywood. Knox's bill is a simple but eloquent provision that allows union representatives to negotiate the availability of health benefits to domestic partners of state and local PERS contracting agencies if that agency opts to do so.

Even before the University of California (UC) Regents decided to extend domestic partner benefits to staff and faculty in 1997, Migden had worked closely with UC Regent Ward Connerly on the issue. In a letter, she urged California State University (CSU) Chancellor-Elect Charles Reed to

follow suit on domestic partners.

However, while the UC structure has constitutional independence from the legislature, that is not the case with CSU, which comes under close legislative oversight in budgetary and administrative affairs. In a letter of response, Interim Senior Director for Human Resources for CSU Samuel Strafaci outlined the need for the government code in PERS to change the definition of family to include domestic partners. Migden said, "CSU has indicated that this legislative change is necessary to provide this domestic partner benefit for its faculty."

"I was disappointed that CSU's representatives did not attend today's hearing to support this bill."

Without a chancellor

Currently, CSU is without a chancellor, as Barry Munitz left the first of the year to become CEO of the Getty Museum in Los Angeles; Reed, who is chancellor at the Florida State University system, is not officially due to take

over CSU until early March. However, after Migden's comments, insiders say Reed flew to California on Tuesday, January 13, and met with the Assemblywoman, who informed him that the PERS Committee Chair was obviously upset by the no-show from any representatives from CSU.

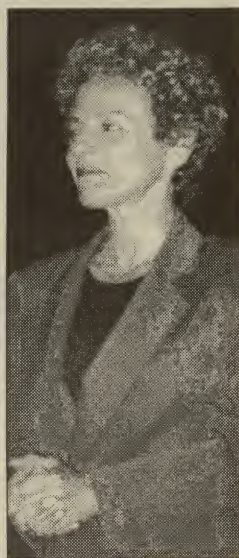
An insider close to the issue said Migden pointed out the number of lobbyists at the legislature who deal with CSU issues, and said that surely one could have been instructed to attend the committee hearing in support. Seven statewide organizations, including Capitol Resource Institute and the Traditional Values Coalition, were registered in opposition to the bill, and CSU was conspicuously absent on the list of 19 supporting organizations, which included LIFE, NOW, California State Employees Association, and Laborer's International Union of North America.

Currently, Migden is awaiting concurrence on Senate Amendments on her bill, AB 1059, which would require group health plans

to offer domestic partners coverage on the same basis as other dependent coverage. The bill is being held until the swearing-in of new Assemblymember Gil Cedillo, D-Los Angeles, who is taking the seat of former Assemblymember Louis Caldera. Caldera left the legislature to take a position in the Clinton Administration.

Migden and her staff are doing everything possible to garner passage of the bill, in spite of the growing certainty that Governor Wilson will veto it. One staffer said, "The governor has staked out this issue, but we're still trying to negotiate with him and his advisors."

As for AB 427, Knox staff member Tara Mesick said, "This is a broad bill; it just puts the definition of domestic partners in the PERS code and enables unions to negotiate the issue. It doesn't mandate anything." A growing number of people will be watching both of the bills, as they will affect many state employees — more straight than gay — who live in committed relationships. ▼



Carole Migden

LA men drug, rob gay men

United Press International

Los Angeles police are warning gays to be cautious of two robbers who appear to be targeting victims in the community.

Police say the bandits befriended two gay men in a nightclub on New Year's Eve, and a few days later, asked if they could stay at their Hollywood apartment.

The two gay men agreed, and last Wednesday, January 7, the robbers drugged them and two of their friends while cooking breakfast.

Investigators say the robbers took a 1990 two-door blue Chevrolet Cavalier with the California license number 2SCC454, and ransacked the victims' apartment.

The robbers are also suspected in a similar crime December 29 in San Diego.

Los Angeles police said Tuesday, January 13, "These crimes are of grave concern. ... The victims are gay and were specifically targeted. The suspects administer an unknown drug to render victims unconscious, and there is a possibility the suspects could severely injure or kill their victims."

One suspect is described as a muscular black man possibly named Jimmy who is about 6'3" tall and 210 to 220 pounds with very short black hair, brown eyes, a pierced right nipple, and a USMC tattoo on one arm.

The second suspect is possibly named Max and stands about 5'9" tall, 170 pounds, with short black wavy hair and brown eyes.

Police say the suspects are between 25 and 30 years old and may have goatees. They were driving a four-door gold 1980s model Mercedes-Benz that one suspect said belonged to his aunt in Woodland Hills.

Police are urging the gay community to be "extremely cautious" about inviting anyone into their homes. ▼

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The tempest over HIV reporting

'We might as well accept it.'

by Bob Roehr

The Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC) in New York City wants to fundamentally change the way the AIDS epidemic is measured, and is calling for a system to track HIV infections in the state. The world's largest AIDS services organization announced this policy shift in a position paper it put forward Tuesday, January 13.

Current surveillance criteria differ from state to state. All states require doctors to report cases that fulfill the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) definition of AIDS: a CD4 cell count of less than 200, plus an associated opportunistic infection. That made sense when treatment options were virtually non-existent and an AIDS definition was a reasonable surrogate for all HIV trends.

But conditions have changed over the last two years with the introduction of new and more effective anti-HIV drugs. People are beginning therapy earlier, they are staying healthy, and fewer are reaching an AIDS diagnosis. Meanwhile, the number of people requiring services continues to grow, and the demographics of the epidemic are often shifting within regions. Most working in the field believe they need a new way to measure the epidemic and allocate resources.

Twenty-eight states require

doctors to report those who test positive for HIV, much as they do for syphilis or tuberculosis. Many report patient names, others use unique identifiers. But the states containing roughly 75 percent of the current AIDS caseload have no such requirement. New York is the largest of them in terms of caseload. Thus its decision will have a significant national impact.

The GMHC proposal

"Counting only those who are hospitalized reveals yesterday's epidemic, not today's," explains Ronald S. Johnson, GMHC's public policy director. The agency's recommendations include continued strong protection for privacy, no linkage with mandatory partner notification, and preservation of anonymous test sites. They did not specifically oppose names reporting, but urged adoption of a unique identifier (UI) system.

"Quite frankly, we feel there is too much emphasis on names reporting," says Johnson. "And not enough emphasis on the privacy safeguards." He wants to get beyond the emotionalism attached to the former.

The CDC recently evaluated differing UI systems run by the states of Maryland and Texas. The study, published in the January 9 edition of *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, found them lacking in the completeness of data gathered. It also posited that

the UI approach "increases the number of lists of HIV-infected persons that could be disclosed in a breach of confidentiality." Its bias was that names reporting is the most accurate and efficient way to monitor cases of HIV.

"CDC is stacking the deck," Johnson charges. They refused to fund development of a unique identifier system, they only spent money to evaluate the Maryland and Texas systems. "I think that is pretty disingenuous. Why don't they spend some money to develop a viable system?"

Derek Gordon, spokesman for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, agrees that the current surveillance system does not provide an adequate picture of the epidemic. And he joined in criticism of the CDC for not funding research into UIs. "Given the civil liberty and public health imperatives surrounding this whole question, it's worth the investment."

He fears that names reporting would be "a powerful deterrent" to getting tested for gays, illegal aliens, or those who use illegal injection drugs, anyone on the margins of society.

Confidentiality

Gordon points to continued discrimination against people who are HIV-positive. He cited the incident last year in Florida, where a state employee took a list of HIV-positive people to a bar

and began warning his friends not to date certain people because their names appeared on the list.

But that breach of confidentiality made news because it was so highly unusual. Most discrimination against people with HIV is based upon information obtained in other ways, often from the people themselves.

"The threat to privacy is not from the public health data," says Johnson. "There have been incredibly few breaches of confidentiality, none in the state of New York." He mentioned the often-overlooked fact that both local pharmacists and the manufacturers of protease inhibitors and other AIDS drugs maintain list of clients using those medications. "And quite frankly," he says, "I trust public health officials more than I trust Merck."

Terje Anderson is a self-described "former junkie" who ran the AIDS programs for the state of Vermont and now directs an AIDS services organization in Colorado Springs. He is also a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS.

He is less concerned with confidentiality, because "most people with HIV in this country are going to end up on a government benefit program at one point or another," where there are far fewer protections. So those names will be reported anyway. He worries, "You will end up with the only people not being reported are

privileged people who don't need government programs, in a few states," where they have political clout.

Gordon counters that "a lot of people they see don't necessarily go into treatment," but knowing their serostatus can affect other activities such as the adoption of safer sex practices. "If HIV surveillance is the goal, then why would we come up with a system that deters people from going in to get HIV tested?"

It is unclear whether data collection, even names reporting, has much of a longterm impact on whether people get tested. Johnson is aware of social science research from the 1980s, but stigma and paranoia surrounding AIDS have abated greatly in the last decade, and he "doesn't know if that data is completely valid now."

"You always have to weigh the trade-off," says Jim Driscoll, AIDS lobbyist for Log Cabin Republicans. "If we can save several thousand lives and wind up with five civil rights violations [because of list violations] around the country that are reasonably serious, that's a good trade. Anyone who would not go for it is crazy."

[California Assemblywoman] Carole Midgeen has told people locally, "Look, we are going to have names reporting," Driscoll continued. "We might as well accept it and use it to get entitlements to treatment." ▼

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Researchers say preventing (some) AIDS infections worth the cost

by Ed Susman,
UPI Science News

Giving drugs to prevent some common AIDS-related infections may make economic sense.

Reporting in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, scientists from Boston University School of Medicine say their calculations support present-day practice of using drugs to prevent pneumonia, but not necessarily to prevent fungal infections.

Dr. Kenneth A. Freedberg, associate professor of medicine at Boston University and Boston Medical Center, developed a computer-based simulation model to compare the clinical impact, cost, and cost-effectiveness of drug therapies to prevent several infections common among people with HIV.

Freedberg says, "It's a pretty good investment to prevent the development of pneumonia in AIDS patients." He said that because *Pneumocystis carinii* pneumonia affects AIDS patients frequently and because the drug used to prevent pneumonia, trimethoprim-sulfamethoxazole, is effective, patients receiving the

treatment get good value for the money spent.

He estimates it costs \$16,000 for each year of life saved to prevent pneumonia.

Conversely, treatments to prevent infections of cytomegalovirus (CMV) with the drug ganciclovir would cost \$314,000 for each year of life saved.

Freedberg says a combination of fewer infections and a questionable success rate for ganciclovir increase the cost, decreasing cost-effectiveness. His research was strictly based on cost issues, and did not take into account the rapid onset of blinding that is usually associated with CMV.

He said using drugs to prevent the brain infection toxoplasmosis and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) — a tuberculosis-like infection — also seem cost-effective in his analysis.

Freedberg says that present standard of care for people with AIDS is to offer prevention of pneumonia, toxoplasmosis, and MAC, but not for CMV or fungal infections.

He tells United Press International, "Our research supports that standard of care." ▼

Time running out for HIV/AIDS prison project

Program needs financial help to survive

by Cynthia Laird

Three years and \$50,000 ago, lesbian activist Judy Greenspan began the Oakland-based HIV/AIDS in Prison Project, a unique program that has been instrumental in getting improvements—some larger than others but all critically needed—for California prisoners who have HIV/AIDS, and indirectly helping their families and friends in many cases by simply serving as a resource. That may all come to an abrupt end on Monday, February 16; Greenspan said she has been unsuccessful in obtaining funding to continue the program and has issued an urgent appeal to the public for financial donations, ideas, and support in the hopes of keeping the HIV/AIDS in Prison Project going.

While Catholic Charities of the East Bay serves as fiscal agent for the program, it provides no funding, Greenspan said. The prison program has been funded by a grant from the Northern California Grantmakers since its inception and subsequently was awarded a grant by the Kaiser Family Foundation. Now, however, Northern California Grantmakers has decided to scrap its policy grant program, under which the HIV/AIDS in Prison Project was funded. Greenspan is waiting to hear if a couple of last ditch grant applications—one to the Tides Foundation and one to the Vanguard Foundation—are successful, but as of now, there is no money to keep the doors open past mid-February.

The program was not selected as a beneficiary for the 1997 AIDS Walk San Francisco; recipients of the money raised by the San Francisco AIDS Foundation event were recommended by the Tides Foundation.

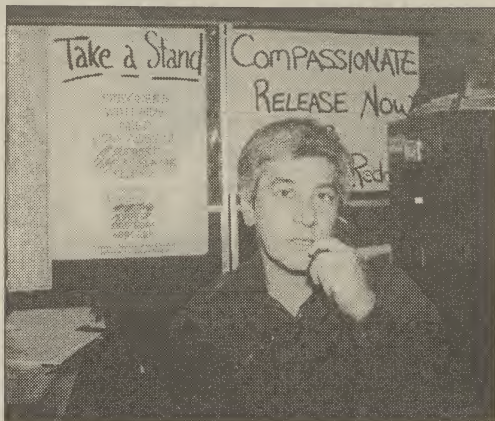
Inundated with letters

Besides the many hours of work on behalf of state prisoners who are living with HIV/AIDS, as well as gay and lesbian inmates, Greenspan and a part-time peer educator have become sort of a national clearinghouse of information for distraught family members or friends of people who are serving time in prisons across the country.

Ever since an item about compassionate release appeared in a *Dear Abby* column in newspapers from coast to coast last August, Greenspan said her office has been inundated with letters. Getting California's compassionate release bill for terminally ill prisoners signed into law last year was probably her single greatest success, though she emphasized the law is far from perfect.

"Basically, it was the only prisoner piece of legislation Governor Pete Wilson signed into law," Greenspan told the *B.A.R.*, adding the flood of inquiries she has received in the last several months is a clear indication of the importance of compassionate release programs.

The law provides a mechanism for prisoners who are terminally ill with six months or so left to live, to be released. The HIV/AIDS in Prison Project played a major



Judy Greenspan: "Countless prisoners depend upon our advocacy efforts and have nowhere else to turn."

role in obtaining the compassionate release of over 15 dying prisoners, she noted, but there are other instances that did not meet with success. "While we have not been successful in winning release for Claudia Reddy, a critically ill woman incarcerated for killing an abusive spouse, our media campaign has rallied the public to support battered women and to fight for the compassionate release of 'lifers' dying in prison," said Greenspan.

Other achievements

Continuous investigations at many of the state's prisons have been another major part of Greenspan's efforts to help HIV-infected prisoners; currently the project is working to expose the abysmal conditions for prisoners with HIV/AIDS and other serious illnesses at Corcoran State Prison. "We've visited and documented numerous cases of neglect and abuse, and are working directly with the prisoners to put pressure on the California Department of Corrections [CDC]," she explained.

One of the early success stories of the project involved the California Medical Facility at Vacaville. Several years ago, prisoners, led by openly gay inmate Brian Patrick Carmichael, staged a hunger strike to draw attention to the situation; the result was dramatically improved healthcare access for HIV-positive prisoners.

After visiting the HIV unit at Corcoran last summer, Greenspan concluded that the more than 160 prisoners should be immediately transferred to Vacaville, where they would receive appropriate care.

The project has conducted numerous media campaigns to raise public awareness about the medical neglect and discrimination faced by prisoners with HIV/AIDS and brought statewide attention to the needs of women prisoners.

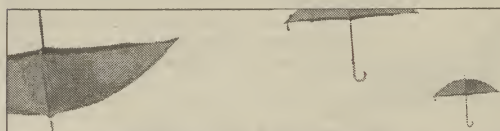
Above all, Greenspan said the HIV/AIDS in Prison Project has, through all of its efforts, continued to educate policy makers, legislators, service providers, and the community on HIV/AIDS in prison issues.

"Countless prisoners depend upon our advocacy efforts and have nowhere else to turn," she said. "We're open to private donations." ▼

Tax-deductible contributions payable to "Catholic Charities/HIV in Prison" can be mailed to 433 Jefferson Street, Oakland, CA 94607. If people have ideas to help with the funding crisis, they can call Greenspan at (510) 834-5656, ext. 3150 or e-mail her at judyg@igc.apc.org

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization – and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Gary John Behrens

July 12, 1954 – Jan. 8, 1998



Our dear sweet friend, Gary, died unexpectedly of a heart attack at 43. He was born in Long Island and has a brother, Neil.

Gary arrived in Santa Barbara in 1976, where he met his first lover, Ruben Varela. In 1978, he met Tom Stefens and moved to Sonoma, where they lived with Gaiter and Dancer, the two whippets. He then met Jim Reid and moved to San Francisco to live with Henry the Afghan.

Fifteen years ago, Gary met the love of his life, Michael Brenner. They had two children, Hoover Huckleberry and Emma Pearl, both wire-haired dachshunds. Gary and Jim continually remodeled their Potrero Hill cottage, while Michael shopped for furnishings.

Gary worked in construction with Jim for 12 years, then as a meter reader for PG&E. In November he realized a lifelong dream to travel to Australia. His Christmas tree brought great magic and

joy into his life each year.

All the people and dogs that met Gary grew to love him, and will truly miss him. May he play amongst the stars and animals forever. A bon voyage will be held for Gary on Sunday, Jan. 25, noon-5 p.m., at his home. Call Michael at (415) 550-8232. Donations requested to the SF SPCA.

Peter Donald Lee Brown

Aug. 8, 1939 – Jan. 17, 1998

**T. Stephen Brown**

Oct. 21, 1953 – Dec. 16, 1997



Stephen, a native of Kentucky and an "adopted" son of San Francisco for over 20 years, peacefully left this world on December 16.

Stephen thoroughly enjoyed the city of San Francisco, its people, its beauty, and especially the openness and freedom with which he could live his life.

Known for his handsome looks, a playful attitude, and most of all for his belief that "we are all God's children," Stephen believed in and fought for the underdog. He was a staunch supporter of women's rights, and had an undying love for and devotion to all living things. He loved nature, animals, the 49ers, Kentucky basketball, and beauty pageants (always rooting for Miss Kentucky). He especially loved flowers.

Stephen now joins his parents, Carl and Helen, and his many dear friends who preceded him in death. As the youngest of nine children, he leaves behind a large, loving, generous and sup-

portive family in Kentucky and a wonderful, loving circle of friends throughout the world.

A memorial service will be held at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond Street, in San Francisco, on Saturday, January 24, at 11 a.m.

Stephen D. Forsberg

January 12, 1998

Stephen D. Forsberg, a native of Worcester, Mass., died January 12 at age 54. Steve had lived in San Francisco since 1972. He was an active supporter of Coming Home Hospice, first as an employee and later as a volunteer. He was also recently a lay chaplain at San Francisco General Hospital.

A funeral mass will be held in Steve's memory on Saturday, January 17, at 11 a.m. at Most Holy Redeemer Church, 100 Diamond Street, in San Francisco. In lieu of flowers, Steve requested donations be made to the restoration fund for Most Holy Redeemer.

David "Rick" North
1937 – 1997

Our friend Rick died at home ("It will always be Army Street to me!") after a long struggle with lung cancer during the early morning hours of Saturday, December 27. He was surrounded by the people who loved him, both those here and those waiting for him to make the transition. He will now join his life partner, Jerry, who died several years ago.

Rick never complained about anything except the usual – the price of coffee, taxes, and crooked politicians – but always in jest. He never let on about how severe his illness was or the pain he had endured for years. He was always in a good mood and was there to help any way he could. The sentiment that best describes our friend Rick was that "he was always a gentleman." He had a warmth and sincerity that were contagious, and he will be greatly missed by those who loved him whose lives were enriched just by knowing him.

Rick asked that in lieu of flowers contributions be made to any one of the wonderful SF AIDS organizations. Rest in peace, Rick.

**Microbicide research
may be worth a spit**

by Mike Salinas

Researchers speculate that it may be possible to create natural microbicides from a component in human saliva that effectively blocks the growth of HIV.A team of biomedical scientists led by Dr. Jeffrey Laurence, director of the Laboratory for AIDS Virus Research, Dr. Ralph Nachman, and Dr. Roy L. Silverstein, describe in the January 5 issue of the *Journal of Experimental Medicine* how they identified a natural sugar-protein, concentrated in saliva, known as TSP (thrombospondin), and discovered its ability to block the growth of HIV, both in laboratory strains and viruses taken directly from patients.

"This is an exciting finding that is another step forward in our research efforts aimed at preventing AIDS transmission," Nachman said. "TSP derivatives could potentially be used vaginally, rectally, and orally – in condoms, foams, suppositories, mouthwashes, and toothpastes – to inhibit transmission."

Because TSP is a very large molecule that would be unwieldy to use directly in patients, the research team also investigated its action mechanism. They found that peptides – small pieces of the larger TSP – could block binding of the virus to its receptor on immune cells, which offers the po-

tential for direct use of these smaller molecules to prevent sexual transmission of HIV.

Recognizing that over the past years several labs have found a variety of substances in human saliva that partially inhibit the growth of HIV, Laurence and his research team delved further into the phenomenon at The New York Hospital-Cornell University Medical College, where Nachman chairs the Department of Medicine and Silverstein is Chief of the Division of Hematology-Oncology.

Laurence said, "We began by exploring why there is so little HIV virus in saliva, while large amounts of the virus are found in other body fluids; and why human saliva is so effective at

blocking the growth of the AIDS virus in the test tube. This led us to the discovery of TSP."

TSP is of particular interest as a natural inhibitor, as other researchers have shown that it may promote wound healing and suppression of some bacterial infections. Levels of TSP are higher in the saliva of some male animals than in females of the species, which may relate to the more frequent wounding of male animals; wound licking, with application of saliva molecules that could inhibit infection, would then be very beneficial, researchers said.

Funding for the study was provided by the Dental, Heart/Lung/Blood, and Allergy/Immunology Institutes of the National Institutes of Health. ▼

**Lyon-Martin to launch
lesbian cancer support**

by Cynthia Laird

Lesbians who are living with cancer can take advantage of a new 12-week psycho-social support group to be offered by Lyon-Martin Women's Health Services.

The support group will be professionally facilitated and will offer lesbians who are living with cancer a safe place to come and express

their feelings, as well as to receive support and develop coping skills. Pre-registration is required, and there is a sliding scale fee ranging from \$120 to zero for all 12 weeks. The site is wheelchair accessible, and Lyon-Martin strives to maintain a scent-free space. ▼

For more information, call
(415) 565-7672 ext. 370 and
leave a message.

Genotypic testing for HIV: Boon or boondoggie?

by Bob Roehr

HIV-positive individuals can get a new test at Stanford University Medical Center to determine whether the strain of virus in their blood is resistant to one or more antiviral drugs. The opening line of a press release put out by the institution on October 21, and distributed on HealthWire.

"The test, called 'HIV antiviral resistance testing by genotyping,' involves genetic analysis of the virus to detect mutations associated with drug resistance. The results of the test can help physicians prescribe the most effective antiviral drug regimen for each patient," said Dr. Ann Warford, chief virologist at Stanford's Diagnostic Virology Laboratory.

The paid release then went on for four pages to describe the process, quote costs—up to \$650 for the complete package—and even list phone numbers for medical courier services. It was a full marketing pitch.

A caller requesting more infor-

ma- rales may discuss about ongoing compliance investigations. But she did say that no one has formally applied for an IDE, though a few companies have at least initiated conversations about such an application.

Corrales acknowledged "the political ramifications around HIV." She said that a few years back, when viral load tests were first being developed, the FDA "definitely used our enforcement discretion in looking at those firms." They were allowed to bring themselves into compliance.

"A lot of firms don't realize that we aren't here to stop you from what you are doing," she says. "We're here to help you get what you need. But it needs to be done in a certain way to show it's valid."

Stanford's Warford is sold on the preliminary results of genotypic tests with a limited number of patients whose stored and current blood has been analyzed in depth over time. But she admits that "it is a little early to state with absolute certainty the degree of value this is going to be." Their re-

search will be presented at the international AIDS conference in Geneva this summer.

She seemed surprised to hear that an IDE had not been filed with the FDA. That is the responsibility of the kit manufacturer, in this case Perkin-Elmer, and it was her "understanding" that they had initiated that process.

Warford said that the benefits claimed in their literature were part of "trying to get insurance companies to carry their load." She said they are only trying to recover costs, not make a profit, and she noted that the test is reimbursable under MediCal, the California Medicaid program.

AIDS advocates

"Most of the research on HIV resistance has been conducted in test-tube studies. It is still unclear how much of the information from test-tube studies is relevant to what happens in humans." So wrote Ben Chang of Project Inform in an article for the fall 1996 issue of *CRIA Update*, the newsletter of the Community Research Initiative on AIDS.

Spencer Cox, with the Treatment Action Group (TAG) in New York, says, "We are finding that HIV is a much trickier virus than we thought. The kinds of mutations that we are seeing *in vitro* [in a laboratory test tube] are not necessarily the kinds of mutations that you see *in vivo* [in humans]."

"One of the things we know *in vitro* is that over time viral strains start selecting for laboratory strains." That is, the rapidly mutating virus starts to adapt to the test-tube setting. "You can't measure to what extent you are selecting based on the kinds of pressure

you know you are putting on, and to what extent you are selecting just based on the laboratory *in vitro* environment."

Cox says that "most genotypic tests are looking at the dominant population, which may tell you something useful about what is not going to work, but it may not be the most useful thing for deciding what is going to work."

Invariably, people infected with HIV have a broad range of subtypes or mutations simultaneously reproducing within them. A drug which is successful in suppressing the dominant type may in fact clear the way for another subtype to emerge into dominance. It is much like a forest fire, which levels mature trees and allows grasses and bushes to regenerate.

Cox reminds us that "very small amounts of virus that are undetectable, by currently available commercial assays, can produce resistant populations of the virus very quickly."

He says that people using the test "are finding out that it is really much less helpful than they expected it to be." He believes that genotypic testing data "is going to look a lot worse in six months than it does right now." ▼

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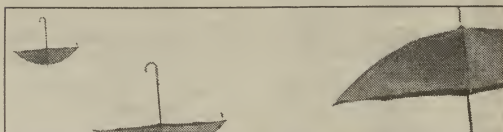
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FOR FREE, CONFIDENTIAL EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

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5 P.M. TO 5 A.M. EVERY NIGHT

Funded by the Laine Family Foundation & McCarthy Family Foundation.

The only trouble: none of these test kits have been approved by the Food and Drug Administration.

mation received a five-page packet including forms for submitting a blood sample for testing. It read in part: "In the clinical management of HIV patients, examining the HIV sequence for resistance mutations has become a useful tool."

Using this test would result in "timely changes to more effective drug regimen(s)... reduced drug costs... and reduced disease complications." The service began in April.

Specialty Labs has been advertising their genotypic test in *Positively Aware*. Murex is touting their version in news releases. And a handful of other manufacturers and laboratories are sticking their toes into the water.

The only trouble is, none of these test kits have been approved for sale by the Food and Drug Administration. In fact, none of the manufacturers have even begun the process of applying for approval.

The FDA

"They are basically research tests," says Richard Klein in the office of AIDS and Special Health Issues at FDA. "Nobody has validated them, nobody knows really what the results mean." He says the Agency "considers this to be an FDA-regulated product, but nobody has even filed an application for approval."

Susan Corrales is a compliance officer at FDA. She explains that the traditional route to approval is first to obtain an Investigational Device Exemption (IDE) in order to conduct the clinical trials "to show that it is safe and effective and is going to prognose the treatment the way it should."

FDA policy limits what Cor-

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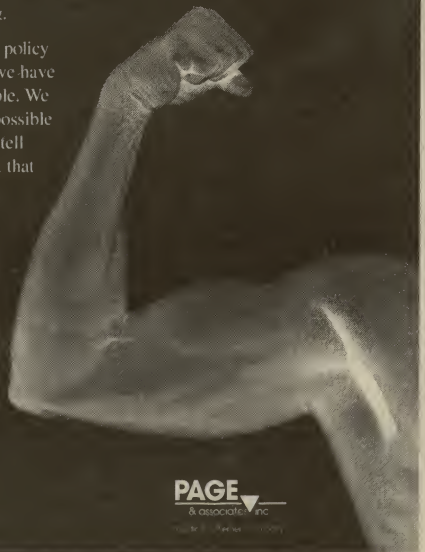
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Wider access to new AIDS drug achieved

by Don Howard and Matt Sharp, ACT UP/Golden Gate

Starting immediately, people with AIDS who have failed combination drug treatments will have wider access to a new anti-HIV drug before its final approval by the FDA. The drug, adefovir dipivoxil (brand name Preveon), is manufactured by Gilead Sciences, a pharmaceutical company in Foster City, California. Preveon is a new antiviral drug that has modest antiviral activity against HIV and may be an important component in HIV treatment combinations. Wider

access to the drug has been a top priority for AIDS activists who continue to fight to expand the arsenal of anti-HIV drugs available for people with AIDS who are failing available cocktail therapies.

In mid-December, after sometimes heated negotiations between the company and AIDS activists, the drug was made available in a very limited program only to people whose immune systems were dangerously compromised. In a meeting last week with AIDS activists, the company agreed to amend the program to allow anyone who has failed currently available drugs to access

Preveon as a final option to construct a cocktail that might bring their virus under control.

ACT UP/Golden Gate played a central role in the design of Preveon's expanded access program and has supported other access programs for people who have failed older HIV therapies and need new options (including Glaxo's Abacavir/1592 program). It has taken a while for Gilead to understand the importance of making Preveon available to all patients who have failed drugs. We are hopeful that this expansion will increase options for people with AIDS and save lives. A recent study by Dr. Steven Deeks at UCSF showed that over 50% of patients at San Francisco General Hospital's Ward 86 had failed drug treatment—largely due to years of previous treatment.

Preveon is being released at the same time as two other new anti-HIV drugs, Sustiva/DMP266 from DuPont Merck (a non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitor), and Abacavir/1592 (another nucleoside) from Glaxo Wellcome. Activists felt it was important for the inclusion criteria of the three programs to allow patients to access all three drugs simultaneously as a new untried cocktail of drugs. They fought successfully to have the programs open to all people who are not able to construct a viable treat-

ment regimen based on the Department of Health and Human Services' current treatment guidelines. DuPont Merck and Glaxo Wellcome had agreed to expand their programs; Gilead was the last to adopt the more inclusive criteria.

Preveon has been studied in a smaller number of people than other drugs in this stage of development, and the drug has a number of potential side effects. It

is important for patients and their doctors to weigh the pros and cons of using Preveon in light of the scant data. In December, the company reported to activists that, of the 800 patients who have taken Preveon in studies, approximately

100 (13%) experienced moderate to severe toxicities (grade 3 or 4). One of the more worrisome potential toxicities reported to date is elevated serum creatinine levels (4%), an indication of kidney dysfunction. Elevations in certain liver and pancreas enzymes have also been observed. Other side effects reported include nausea and anorexia.

Preveon can also cause a decrease in serum-free carnitine. Severe depletion of carnitine may cause weakness, fatigue, low blood sugar, confusion, and abnormalities in liver function. The company is including a daily carnitine supplement at no charge with Preveon as part of the expanded access program.

Side effects were reversed when the drug was stopped or the dose reduced. Doctors are advised to monitor the patient routinely while using Preveon, because toxicities often develop six months or more after starting treatment. Preveon should be used with at least one or two other drugs that the patient has not previously taken.

Tide, not side

Preveon is the first of a new type of anti-HIV drugs called nucleotide analogues which are active in a broader range of cells than other drugs. Unlike older nucleoside analogues such as AZT, ddI, ddC, d4T, and 3TC, nucleotide analogues like Preveon do not require the presence of certain cellular enzymes (particularly nucleoside kinase) to become active. Preveon can be active in cells without this enzyme—specifically, monocytes/macrophages. Preveon also has antiviral activity against Hepatitis B and a wide range of herpesviruses.

Preveon has a long half-life and can be administered once daily. The current dose being used is 120 milligrams (mg.), but the company is testing the efficacy of Preveon at 60 mg. in an ongoing trial. If the efficacy at the two doses appears equivalent, patients enrolling in the expanded access program will be given the choice of receiving the 120 mg. dose or being assigned to a sub-study which would randomize them to either the 60 mg. or 120 mg. dose. There is hope that the 60 mg. dose would be as effective but have fewer side-effects than the higher dosage.

To be eligible for the Preveon expanded access program, the patient must be at least 13 years of age and have failed or be intolerant to at least two available nucleoside analogs (like AZT) and one protease inhibitor. Based on the agreement reached with activists this week, the only other requirement for access is a physician's statement that the patient is unable to construct a viable treatment regimen without Preveon.

Information for enrollment will be sent to the patient's primary care physician by calling (800) 445-3235. (Press "1" when prompted.) ▼

Clarification

The ACT UP/Golden Gate Writers Pool column titled "News from the HIV Research Front," published on November 27, incorrectly reported on a discovery by Bruce Walker's team at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard (later published in *Science*). Our earlier report discussed the importance of maintaining a CTL response to the virus for long-term survival. While this was correct, Dr. Walker's most recent work showed that, unlike most people with HIV infection, long-term non-progressors also maintain a vigorous HIV-specific CD-4+ T-cell response to the virus.

According to Walker's recent research, people treated with drug therapy shortly after infection (but before becoming HIV antibody-positive) generated virus-specific CD-4 responses as their viral load was reduced to undetectable levels. This contrasts with the reported lack of strong HIV-specific CD-4 responses after starting drug therapy during chronic infection.

Walker suggests that during acute infection, HIV-specific CD-4s that are activated to fight the infection are particularly susceptible to being depleted. Drug treatment during this very early stage of infection may therefore help preserve HIV-specific CD-4s, which could provide longer AIDS-free survival for those with HIV. ▼

AIDS PATIENTS WITH GENITAL HERPES

Volunteers Wanted for Clinical Trial

A leading medical specialist in San Francisco, near UCSF, DR. MARCUS CONANT, is inviting volunteers to participate in a clinical research trial. If you have been diagnosed with AIDS and have recurrent genital or perianal herpes, you may qualify to participate in this trial of a naturally derived investigational drug for the topical treatment of herpes.

Requirements:

- Ages 18 and older
- Diagnosis of AIDS
- Current herpes outbreak

All qualified participants will receive free standard antiviral herpes therapy, medical treatment, and laboratory tests. Qualified participants may also be paid up to \$500 at the completion of the study.

For more information please call:

(415) 661-2613

Gene therapy

◀ page 16

visible" to the human immune system, so as not to trigger an immune response in the patient.

The UCSF trial will remove patients' blood cells through a process called leukapheresis. The stem cells will be treated and reintroduced into the patient, where they are expected to engraft and produce a population of immune cells resistant to HIV infection. Researchers will follow patients to

see whether their overall T-cell count has increased, how they respond, and how the progression of HIV has been affected.

"This is an innovative, exciting approach that may give us new options for people infected with HIV," said Conant. "Initially, this treatment will be important for two populations: those who have been infected for many years and treated with sequential antivirals who have developed class resistance, and those who cannot comply with medication regimens for a variety of reasons." ▼

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Wall crawler

by Jim Provenzano

For some people, no thrill beats ascending a sheer rock face of a mountain, climbing to the top and enjoying the majesty of the wilderness. To a climber having reached a peak, it's as if that beauty has been earned.

Rock climbing came naturally to Craig Pack. Born in Fresno, he was close to Yosemite and climbed a lot there as a young adult. "I wish they started when I was a kid," he said of his lifelong enthusiasm for rock climbing.

"I've been to El Capitan, and Half Dome, the largest walls in North America. There are thousands of routes on El Capitan. Books describe all the routes and fixed pieces, the belay stations [a bunch of fixed pieces that climbers tie into temporarily]."

Usually he hikes with one other person. Pack was a core member of Stonewall Climbers, a gay and lesbian climbing group. But being the rugged individualists such a sport attracts, the group is not meeting regularly.

There's also a different experience climbing alone versus in a group. When somebody's on the end of the rope, you have more responsibilities, but more security.

Pack explains some basic terms. "Bouldering means to climb short rock faults. Soloing is climbing without."

Does a knowledge of geology help those who climb on rocks? "It would be a weakness of mine," the 38-year-old Pack admits. "I know when I see granite and limestone."

What interests him, along with the beauty of nature, is the challenge. Pack will be one of perhaps a half a dozen Bay Area competitors in the Sport/Rock Climbing events at Gay Games in Amsterdam this August.

'The best are young'

Up to 150 climbers will compete in the oddly-shaped facility located on Amsterdam's water-

front. Competitors have to indicate their level of experience, highest level climbed, and follow the rules of the International Sport Climbing Association. Preliminary rounds will be on Wednesday and Thursday of the first week of August, with finals on that Friday.

How does Pack feel about the competition? "I've been climbing about 15 years," he said. "I'm finding most of the best climbers in the world are pretty young."

How does indoor climbing differ? "Well, there are no rocks in Amsterdam," he jokes. Having an indoor facility here in the Bay Area gives him an advantage. Mission Cliffs is one of the most popular spaces for the sport in California.

"I train there two to three times a week," he said. "Anyone who's contacted me through Stonewall Climbers, I recommend they meet there. It's a great place to learn how to rock-climb in a controlled environment."

The aspect of judging winners is based on the competitors' speed and skill. "There is a time limitation," Pack said. "Something less than ten minutes. Climbers climb at different speeds. We did find that if we don't keep moving we run out of energy and fall off."

Belay me, laddy!

Throughout the competition, the little holes and jettings that course-setters move will change, and in some cases, competitors may not be able to see the course until right before their event. "There are combinations that are strictly speed, and then combination of speed and difficulty," Pack said, noting that keeping the course hidden from competitors will be "only for the advanced competition and only for the finals. Other than that, competitors are going to belay each other up the routes. When the finals come around they change the hole so that climbs change in difficulty."

He also noted that route setters are usually good climbers, so they may make climbs too difficult.

What other stuff does a rock



Craig Pack lead climbing a bolted face route called "Red Mushrooms" at Dome Rock, just east of Porterville. The climb difficulty is rated at 5.10a.

climber do for cross-training and inspiration, except perhaps studying Spiderman comics? Pack does mountain biking for cardiovascular workouts. His love of the outdoors, of course, leads to backpacking and hiking trips. And if a mountain comes his way, he usually goes up it. The most exciting (or chilling?) variation might be ice packing, which he's done in British Columbia. But how can they tell the difference between a good outcropping and a bank of snow ready to collapse? Pack said most ice climbing areas are formed from waterfalls.

"You just go where water falls. You check the ice to make sure it's thick. A couple feet, at least. It's really amazing. You find out if the surface of the ice will shatter or if it's plastic. On the way you can place ice screws, eight to ten-inch inch screws you spin into the ice,

in case you fall."

No-fall

Despite the perceived danger, Pack says ice climbing is a "no-fall" sport, meaning that unlike regular climbing, free-falling and hanging are not part of the technique. "Pieces of ice are scarier to fall on. You have all these sharp tools on your feet and hands, clamp-ons for ice, heavyweight boots, plastic or steel shank soles." None of these items are recommended for hanging and rappelling sorts of climbing. The risk of cutting a rope, body part, or a partner is too high.

With all this equipment needed for such high adventure, the sport does take its financial toll. Pack is seeking sponsors for his trip, and welcomes any companies or stores interested in seeing their logo on the back of a potential

gold medalist.

Camping up in the mountains sometimes means overnight trips. That means sleeping on a cliff face thousands of miles up.

"When you do a route more than 20 pitches (rope lengths) you can't make it in a day so you camp out. You can take a porta-ledge, a cot that hangs from a wall. I have done that a few times."

What kind of dreams might be inspired by such a lofty bed? "It's scary, but once you get on a wall, you are working so hard that you sort of lose the awareness of the height and it becomes unimportant. By the end of the day you're so exhausted, you don't think much about where you're at."

"It's a really safe sport," Pack assures. "I've had bigger falls in sport climbing. Weather is actually the biggest danger. You have to be properly geared."

Several seasons down the road, he's thinking beyond this summer, and on to Sydney, where hopefully outdoor climbing might be included in the Games events. But Pack is quick to compare the difference. "Practically all competitive environments involve constructed climbing. It's just much easier to set routes for difficult levels."

Plus, all his fans will get comfortable seats to watch from! ▼

To learn more about rock/sport climbing in the Bay Area, and for Gay Games, call Craig at (415) 641-5905 or email him at craigp@crl.com.

UCSF RESEARCHERS at San Francisco General Hospital are recruiting HIV POSITIVE PEOPLE for clinical trials:

Phase III Study of Glaxo Wellcome's 1592

Abacavir™
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in combination with
Combivir™ (AZT/3TC)
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Study Requirements:

- T-Cells 100 or greater
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- No previous antiretroviral therapy allowed

For more information call Dorie Heeren, RN
at (415) 476-9296 ext. 305 or
Curtis Head at (415) 476-9296 x314

Amsterdam Gay Games leaders dive into '98

by Paul van Yperen

Marc Janssens, Executive Director of Gay Games Amsterdam 1998, was one of the 45 enthusiasts who took part in an alternative New Year's Dive into the North Sea. The Gay Games dive was organized on January 1 at the beach of Zandvoort.

Among the divers were board member Willemien Ruygrok, volunteers from the Gay Games offices, and members of Dutch gay swim teams such as Gay Swim Amsterdam, Havanna-Thermos, and Plons. More than 100 spectators and members of the press were present to applaud and cheer on the swimmers.

Janssens unwillingly initiated the dive; in his New Year's speech last year, he referred to the absence of a Gay Games delegation at the traditional New Year's Dive. He joked that he would volunteer for next year's dive, and his listeners held him to his word! Janssens was forced to interrupt his holidays to participate in the event (which he did on crutches, due to a skiing accident).

In a newspaper interview, he told a reporter from the largest Dutch daily that he was "happy to start 1998 - the year of Gay Games Amsterdam - with a refreshing dive!"

The water was 5 degrees Celsius.

After the dive, there was hot chocolate and Erwtensoeep (a Dutch delicacy) offered by a local hotel. There were also some bottles of Absolut Vodka, one of the new sponsors of Gay Games Amsterdam 1998.

During his New Year's speech on January 9, Janssens announced that 12,000 participants have now registered. ▼

COMMUNITY HEALTH LISTINGS

Send health resource listings to:

Roberto Friedman
Community Health
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

ACT UP/Golden Gate

Self-empowerment for AIDS treatment options. Gen'l mtgs. Tues., 7:30pm; treatment issues every other Thurs., 7:30pm. 592 Castro. 252-9200.

ACT UP/SF

Does not accept drug company donations, committed to direct action. Contact: 1388 Haight, #218, SF 94117. 522-2907.

Acupuncture

The Community Acupuncture Project offers free acupuncture Wed., 9-11:30am, American College of Traditional Chinese Medicine, 450 Connecticut. 282-9603.

ADD Support Group

Informal support group for gays and lesbians with Attention Deficit Disorder. Call Chuck, 282-7983.

AIDS Benefits Counselors

Professional review and counseling about benefits for people with AIDS/HIV+. Free. For intake scheduling, screening, referral, call 558-9845.

AIDS Bereavement Group

For those who have lost their partner to AIDS. Thursdays, 6-7:30pm. Registration and info: 750-6800 x21680.

AIDS Dementia CARE Unit

At St. Mary's Medical Center seeks volunteers to visit patients with HIV-related cognitive impairments. Call Stephan Ouellette, MSW, 750-4976.

AIDS Emergency Fund

Provides financial assistance to people with disabling HIV. Office volunteers needed for day shifts. Call 558-6999.

AIDS Health Project

Support groups for caregivers, friends & lovers of those with HIV/AIDS; women only, and mixed groups; free. Info: Mike, 502-6101.

AIDS/HIV Nightline

Volunteers needed to provide telephone emotional support, intensive training course provided. 984-1902.

AIDS Legal Referral Panel

Assists persons w/HIV on legal problems, incl. wills, powers of attorney, benefits, more. Free or reduced fee. 291-5454.

AIDS Memorial Grove

Monthly workshops: wedding, clearing, replanting at Bowling Green Dr. and Middle Drive East, Golden Gate Park. Info: 750-8340.

AIDS Project of the East Bay

HIV education & prevention programs, case man-

agement, emotional & practical support for people in Alameda Co. 651 20th St., Oakland. (510) 834-8181.

AIDS-Related Vision

Loss Support Group
Meets 1st & 3rd Tues., 1pm at Rose Resnick Lighthouse, 214 Van Ness. 431-1481, ext. 294 or 215.

AIDS Support Group

2+ years since diagnosis. No charge, fees paid by Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Resource Group. Thursdays, 1pm. Call Gail Winston for intake: 552-7517.

AIDS Treatment Education Network

Provides free educational forums for people with HIV/AIDS: holistic healing and survival strategies. 284-6237.

Alternative Family Project

Offers family counseling, support groups and events for families with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered members. "Considering Parent-hood" forum Wed., Jan. 21, 7:30pm. Call 436-9000.

ARIS

AIDS resources, information and services of Santa Clara county, drop-in support group meetings. 408-293-ARIS.

Asians & Pacific Islanders with HIV

Weekly support group, activities, retreats, treatment info. API Wellness Center, 292-3400 x336.

BAPHR

Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights offers support services to med. students, physicians. 558-9353.

Bereavement Groups

For family, friends and partners who have lost a loved one to AIDS. Visiting Nurses and Hospice of SF. 750-4404.

Buddhist AIDS Project

Provides info on Buddhist resources, events, and HIV alternative health services. Call 522-7473.

Center for Special Problems

Groups for people with HIV: drop-in for women, women's therapy group, co-ed drop-in and psycho educational group. 1700 Jackson. Call for info: 292-1500.

CHANGES Project

(A Coping Skills Program), UCSF research project: ways to deal with stress of HIV epidemic. HIV+ gay men call: 597-9169.

Community United Against Violence

Begins training Volunteer Counselors on their 24-hour crisis line. Call Nhu at 777-5500.

Connections

Is a confidential, one-on-one peer support focusing on HIV prevention by and for gay men of color, free. Call 356-8114.

Continuum HIV Day Services

An adult day health care facility for people with disabling HIV disease, located in the Tenderloin. Medical services, counseling, therapy, meals, activities. 241-5500.

Crystal Meth Anonymous

Meetings every: Wed., 8pm at 18th St. Services Mtg. Place (15th & Market); Sat., 9pm, and Sun., 6pm at 529 Clayton. Hotline: 267-5933.

Dolores Street Comm. Services

Seeks volunteers to help homeless in shelters. Contact David Rodriguez, 282-6209.

Drug Detox Program

Outpatient, medical drug detox, HIV acute care, counseling and education, free. Haight Ashbury Free Clinics, 529 Clayton. Call Hector, 565-1909.

Eureka Acupuncture & Yoga Center

Offers yoga, massage, low cost acupuncture. 301 Eureka. 648-2215.

Filipino Task Force on AIDS

Provides prevention, education and direct care services to Filipinos and others affected by HIV/AIDS. 1540 Market, Suite 325. Info: 703-9880.

Gay Dads

Gather to talk about your kids, lovers, ex's, etc. Joel Wechsler, MFCC. Alternative Family Project. 436-9000.

Gay & Lesbian Asylum Project

Seeks volunteer to coordinate outreach to immigrants with asylum claims based on sexual orientation. Call Aaron Myers, 641-9276.

Gay/Lesbian Christian Scientists

Sharing support, insight, metaphysical science. Meets 2nd Monday of month. Info: Craig, 281-0636.

Gay/Lesbian Legal Referral Service

Seeks gay-sensitive law students as volunteer law clerks, one 3-hr. shift/week at GLRS office, Oakland. Info: 621-3900.

Gay Male Nudists

Potluck dinners monthly, after-hours parties, movie nights. Box 14175, SF 94114. 974-9446.

Gay Men's Meditation Group

Yoga philosophy, silent meditation, discussion of integrating sexuality with spirituality, free. Sundays, 4pm. Call 431-7575.

Glide-Goodlett HIV/AIDS Project

Free, confidential OraSure HIV antibody testing, Wed. 12-3, 4-8pm. Case management, support groups, AIDS prevention and education. 330 Ellis, Suite 518. 567-2273.

Healing Alternatives Foundation

Maintains public HIV/AIDS Treatment & Resource Library. Also Buyer's Club for health products, open Tues.-Sat. 1748 Market St. Info: 626-4053.

Health Support Services

For PWAs and their caregivers, Wednesdays 6-9pm, Marin Treatment Center, 1466 Lincoln Ave., San Rafael. Registration: 457-3755.

Hepatitis B Testing

And vaccinations for young (15-23) gay and bisexual men, free. Berkeley Free Clinic, 2339 Durant Ave., Berkeley, Sun., 5-7pm. (510) 644-0423.

Hepatitis C Helpline

Peer support for persons afflicted with Hep C.

Call 834-4100.

HIV Advocacy Network

Grassroots organizing project of SF AIDS Foundation: phone/fax tree action alerts, government lobbying, HIV Policy Watch newsletter. 487-3034.

HIV/AIDS Risk Reduction Program

Behavior change support group for gay & bi men, focus on speed injection & unsafe sex behaviors. Free. Haight-Ashbury Free Clinic, 1696 Haight. Call Bill or Bonnie, 565-1927.

HIV/AIDS Services at New Leaf

Ongoing support groups, individual and couples counseling, drop-in groups every week. Issues for HIV+ men, men with AIDS, partners and survivors. For information/intake, call Jill, 626-7000 x199. 1853 Market St.

HIVCare

Offers the latest clinical trials from community-based trial network, access to experimental treatments, free to participants. Info: Sher Vieira, 353-6215.

HIV Drop-In Groups

Co-ed for people with HIV, Wed., 8pm. Women with HIV, Tues., 10am. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1543.

HIV Group

Weekly group for men with HIV/AIDS. Sixteen Wed. afternoons from 1-2:30pm. Free to SF residents. Center for Special Problems, 1700 Jackson. 292-1534.

HIV Positive Youth Group

18-25, meets every Wed., 7pm. ARIS, 1550 The Alameda, Suite 100, San Jose. (408) 293-2747.

HIV Testing

Free, anonymous testing, counseling and education. 1st Thursday and 3rd Friday of each month, 10pm-12:30am. 933 Harrison, upstairs.

Home Care Companions

Workshops for persons living with cancer and their caregivers begin Jan. 20. Call 824-3269.

Maitri Residential Care

For people disabled by HIV requiring medical support. Call for info or to volunteer. 863-8508.

Meditation Sessions

For caregivers, people with HIV, significant others, free. Tues., Thurs., Fri. at 10:15am. Hartford St. Zen Center, 57 Hartford. 863-2507.

Men Overcoming Sexual Assault

Operates sexual assault hotline for men, Mon.-Fri., 7-10pm. (510) 845-7273.

Mobilization Against AIDS

Seeks volunteers to assist in planning 15th International AIDS Candlelight Memorial. Call 863-4676.

Movement and Voice

Group for HIV+ Men, no experience necessary. Monday nights, 7pm. Call Paul, (510) 763-5900.

Project Inform

HIV/AIDS Treatment info & advocacy group. Hotline training 1/17-18. Introductory town

mtgs. first Wed. of month, 6:30pm, 205 13th St. #2001. Hotline: 558-9051; 1-800-822-7422.

Project Open Hand

Provides free prepared meals, groceries and nutrition counseling for people with symptomatic and disabling HIV disease. Call 1-800-551-6325 for intake information.

PWA Long-Term Survivors

Support group for men; small, friendly, pro-active. Call Carol, 584-1708.

Q Action

Work with other queer boys to stop HIV transmission among young gay and bi men. Info: 431-2ACT.

Radical Women

Freeing mts. 2nd & 4th Thurs. of the month. 7pm. Valencia Hall, 523-A Valencia St. 864-1278.

Sadhana Brothers

Gaybi men's Hindu/Yogic fellowship, meets monthly by chanting, meditation, informal discussion. Call Ed, 647-4388.

/Senior Central

Provides info, referral and assistance to gay and lesbian seniors, free and confidential services. 360 4th St. 777-3233.

STD Check-ups

Free testing site given by City Clinic, 2nd Thurs. of each month, 8:30-10:30pm. Blow Buddies, 933 Harrison. 863-4323.

St. Francis Senior Center

Invites seniors to weekly gatherings, Wed. 10am-2pm. St. Francis Lutheran Church, 152 Church. 621-2635.

Tambayan

Supportive social group for queer pinays and their friends. Every Thurs., 7pm at Filipino Task Force on AIDS, 1540 Market St., Suite 325. 703-9880.

Transenders in Transition

Alternative Family Project's on-going support group for transgendered and transsexual folk. Thurs., 7:30pm. 425 Divisadero, Suite 203b. 436-9000.

Transitions

Nonprofit consulting service: guidance, referrals and resources for the dying and their caregivers. Call David Cardenas, 664-6975.

Transcendental Meditation Center

Has scholarships for low income people with HIV. Call Paul Brown at 931-1621.

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Offers: (1) ongoing groups for persons diagnosed with KS; (2) Tues. night support group for women who are caregivers or family members of PWAs; (3) support group for HIV+ African-American heterosexual men. Info: 476-3902.

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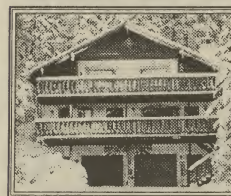
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LEGAL SERVICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219466
The following person(s) are doing business as JJ/SF Consulting Services, 737 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94109: John Ryan Johnson, 737 Post Street, San Francisco, CA 94109. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed John Ryan Johnson. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 17, 1997. Dec. 24, 31, Jan. 8, 15 1998.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219691
The following person(s) are doing business as Kennedy Carlisle Publishing Company, 3450 Sacramento Street, #504, San Francisco, CA 94118: Randy Stratt, 2894 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94115; Kathleen Stratt, 2894 Bush Street, San Francisco, CA 94115. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above fictitious business name or names on the date of December 30, 1997. Signed Randy Stratt. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 30, 1997. Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 1998.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 219581
The following person(s) are doing business as Granelli's Inc, 1193 Folsom Street, San Francisco, CA 94103. This business is conducted by a corporation. Signed Vatra Granelli. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on December 23, 1997. Jan. 8, 15, 22, 29 1998.

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
The name(s) of the applicant(s) are: Kenneth M. Gilpin. The applicant listed above is applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 1081 Post St., San Francisco, CA 94109. For the following type of license: 48 On-sale general public premises. Jan. 15, 22, 29 1998.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
The name(s) of the applicant(s) are: George Yacoub Yaser; Sami Yacoub Yaser. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 691 McAllister St., San Francisco, CA 94102. For the following type of license: 21 Off-sale general. Jan. 15 1998.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
The name(s) of the applicant(s) are: George Yacoub Yaser; Sami Yacoub Yaser. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 691 McAllister St., San Francisco, CA 94102. For the following type of license: 21 Off-sale general. Jan. 15 1998.

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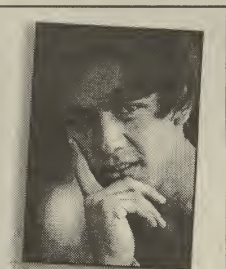
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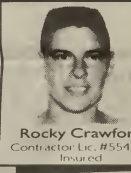
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Castro Theatre plays host to unusual array of old and new American films in first-ever National Film Registry Tour.

page 42 - 43

SF Opera tanks with season-enders 'Marriage of Figaro' and 'Tosca.'

page 44



Paula Vogel steers her way to celebrity with 'How I Learned to Drive.'

page 38



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 28 • No. 3 • 15 January 1998

Thanks for the memories

'Ex-Lovers' is Scott O'Hara's musical valentine to San Francisco

by Richard Dodds

"I'm tired of being Scott O'Hara," says Scott O'Hara, who knows his name is loaded with links to his porn-star past. But he also knows those links will help sell *Ex-Lovers*, his first venture into playwriting.

"I included a strong sense of irony in the show," O'Hara said in a recent interview. "At one point a character says to the audience, 'I know you're all expecting to see some dick.' It was written with the notion of luring them in with one intention and then sending them home with another, something they'll hopefully like."

Ex-Lovers is described in a press release as a "circus-like" musical, a phrase that O'Hara said "still makes me wince a little." He prefers to call the show, opening this week at Theatre Rhinoceros, "a sentimental valentine to San Francisco."

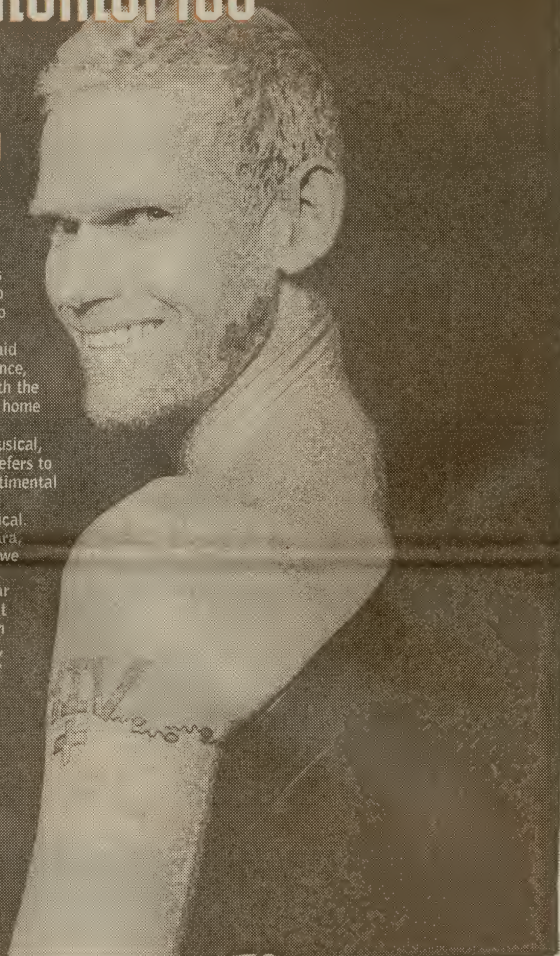
The piece started out as a play and eventually grew into a musical. "One of the characters, a drag queen, needed a song," said O'Hara, who provided the lyrics to Tom Phillips' music. "I loved it, and we started writing more songs. Now everyone sings."

O'Hara came up with the idea for *Ex-Lovers* during a five-year residency in rural Wisconsin that began as a peaceful time but turned sour when O'Hara was diagnosed with lymphoma, and again when a love affair spiraled into a litigious mess. Not surprisingly, his mind wandered to thoughts of happier times. Many of those times were in San Francisco, where O'Hara returned 18 months ago with a script under his arm.

"It's created from my sentimental memories of living in San Francisco, and the way the gay community is fashioned out of a community of ex-lovers, and how unusual and wonderful that is," said O'Hara, who is currently unattached and determined to stay that way.

The story focuses on a character named Leuko as he lands his first job as a stripper, makes his way through the sex clubs of San Francisco, and finally finds unexpected stability. Along the way a variety of lovers both living and dead, real and imagined, cross his path to offer advice on life and love.

page 40 ►



Marc Geller



Anna Thomson and Lothaire Bluteau in *Other Voices, Other Rooms*

The big sleep

'Other Voices, Other Rooms'

by Gary Morris

Literary purists often decry the translation of a beloved novel or play into a movie, the implication being that no film can hope to compete with the imaginative interplay between the written word and the reader's imagination. Still, even *literateurs* have reason to applaud such adaptations; regardless of artistic merit, they not only serve as a reminder of the author's existence, but actually inspire the viewer to read the book, if only as a kind of adjunct to the movie.

One of the literary genres most commonly mined by filmmakers is the Southern Gothic. And why not? Images of hysterical, aging belles and muscle-bound closet cases living out their violent fantasies in rotting mansions or dilapidated rooming houses have an undeniably cinematic appeal, giving directors a chance to play with exaggerated characters and overripe emotions. And the results, if not

page 54 ►

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PLEASUREDOME

OUT THERE

by Glen Helfand

The big misconception about post-holiday life is that people are too tucked out to resume their social lives. Wrong. What people really yearn for at this time of year isn't monk-like recumbency, but social activities that don't require high-pressure bonding with family members and loved ones. Instant gratification of this anti-domestic impulse hasn't been hard to come by in the new year, thanks to a party atmosphere in many of our fair city's thriving subcultures. Here's our report from the trenches:

Gimlets and gigabytes

The ranks of San Francisco's computer cognoscenti swelled last week when a hefty number of software aficionados blew into town for the big Macworld Expo. *Wired* magazine used this as an opportunity to celebrate its fifth anniversary with a Tuesday night bash at the cavernous Bayview sound stages that once housed Colossal Pictures. Despite the rain and out-of-the-way address, *Wired*'s hoe-down was surprisingly well-attended.

The event was a magnet for an estimated 1,500 techie types, cyberstylists, Burning Man alumni, and computer nerds, all of whom bottlenecked at the bars and buffets and turned the nooks and crannies of this Bayview barn into black-lit thoroughfares (the purplish lighting revealed unsavory white flakes on many a black sweater).

Tuesday's large-scale, Absolut vodka-infused party was separated into three giant rooms — a techno lounge with a deejay, a chill-out lounge with a Middle Eastern harem theme, and a game room in which people could web-surf on a video-projected screen. One web page read: "I have seen the future and it doesn't work."

That was definitely the case when it came to maneuvering through this densely populated soiree. Martinis sloshed, toes were trampled, and globs of chicken chow mein stained party clothes. The slow-moving queues did, however, offer ample opportunity for stargazing. Among the many local notables we spotted were SF-MOMA architecture and design curator **Aaron Betsky** (a *Wired* graphics show currently hangs in his gallery); Digital Queer/Planet Out-er **Tom Reilly**; and Survival Research Laboratories kingpin **Mark Pauline**, who was seen chatting with a girl in a lime green dress who had hefty rhinestones glued to her eyebrows. Journalist **Ken Coupland** complained about the "anorexic" snacks while the artist known as **Donco** chatted with friends about impending layoffs at Netscape.

A computer artist acquaintance who recently researched advertising in *Wired* offered demographics of the magazine's readers: its consumers are 80 percent male, the average reader is 37 years old, and has a combined household income of \$120,000. The crowd reflected that profile, though we did see a cute blonde woman barking into a cell phone in the middle of the fully occupied harem lounge, not to mention three scruffy young party crashers who came all the way from Cleveland for this only-SF event.

Smokeless Box

A couple days later, we joined

a celebration of queer diversity when **The Box**, that decade-old dance mecca, staged what flyers called a "virtual rebirth." Like the *Wired* bash, this place was packed to the gills, in this case with smiling, ethnically mixed regulars who squeezed onto the dance floors and shook their things while ogling each other and the psychedelic, Grateful Dead-like projections that oozed on a screen above the stage. Shirtless hunks and braced babes danced on gogo stages, frequently delivering impassioned lip-synchs of the old-school rap songs that pumped through the sound system. Inflated condoms bobbed above the surging crowd like translucent balloons at a baby's birthday party. The place was so steamy that even the walls were beaded with flu-season sweat.

The crowd may have been warm and happy, but the scene didn't exactly deliver on its promise of re-invention. Deejay and Box founder **Page Hodel** returned the music to its original funky format, unearthing old playlists from the club's early days — ever-danceable **Prince** medleys and other classic funk. Institutions have their place, but this scene seemed more replay than recreation. The most notable change was one mandated by state law — the club was a smoke-free environment, which lent an eerie clarity to the scene and left everyone's clothes smelling unusually fresh.

Making movies

Two schmoozy movie events took place last week, and with them came a cast of cosmopolitan characters. The International Film Financing Conference (IFFCON), in which directors and writers pitch pet projects to producers from around the world, got underway Friday at the Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. After a day of seminars, attendees were at their dearest at a cocktail party in the Center's Forum. Without a hint of decor in this large, multipurpose room-like setting, the get-together seemed like a mixer in a high school gym, albeit with a whiff of The Biz. Comedian **Margaret Cho** was seen chatting with performance artist **Nao Bustamante**; Popcorn Q's **Jenni Olson**



Jenni Olson

plugged her short film, *Blue Diary*, while Lesbian and Gay Film Fest co-directors **Michael Lumpkin** and **Jennifer Morris** chatted with a variety of suited characters.

Later that night, gay and lesbian participants regrouped at the intimate Hayes & Vine wine bar on Hayes Street for more focused networking. Heads turned when German film director **Monika Treut** sauntered in sheathed in black vinyl. Treut's been in town



Monika Treut

this week for the Castro Theatre's Berlin and Beyond Film Festival, at which her new film, *Didn't Do It For Love*, is screening. Treut looked cool nursing a glass of red, but minus the cigarette in hand, her haute Euro demeanor seemed awfully compromised.

Others in attendance included dashing film maven **Corey Tong**, who put together a Hong Kong film program for IFFCON; producer **Sue Marcoux**; Icelandic filmmaker **Hrabba Gunnarsdottir**; **Marc Smolowitz**, whose Turbulent Arts released the enormously popular *Lilies*; and ever-charming SF publicist **Nancy Fishman**. Writer and cyber-subversive **Jacques Servin** was in tow with curly-maned and sideburned Canadian director **Noam Gonick**, who had a healthy attitude about mixing business with pleasure. "I'm supposed to be schmoozing producers," he admitted, "but all I really want to do is talk to Monika Treut." ▼

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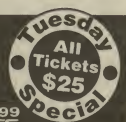
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Capped

The Middle Ages

by Richard
Schwarzenberger

I thought it was Dad," my sister said, pointing to me wearing a blue baseball cap in a photo on my refrigerator, my arm around my friends Matthew and Liz.

"It's the cap," I said.
Since then I've taken some sharp looks at that picture. It can't be just the cap, though my father,

like most farmers in the Midwest, has worn caps for as long as I can remember. This is the first cap I've owned since teenage baseball days. My friend John found it in the surf at Angel Island while kayaking one afternoon. It has KU on it, the university I attended, and he of course thought I should have it. I was delighted. Caps are established in the canon of gay fashion, icons of Cute. I wanted one.

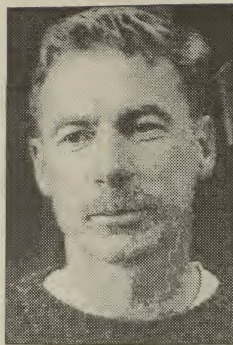
But not one of my Dad's,

which he offered me last summer from his collection, none cute, hanging on a wall in the basement. Giveaways, they featured the name of the company that has traded a few cents worth of petroleum-based fiber for a chance to use his head as a billboard: First State Bank. Northrup King. Many have abnormally high brows — more advertising space, but the wearer seems encephalitic.

My father stopped collecting at 50 or so hats, realizing that the house wasn't big enough for him to do this indefinitely. He began collecting pens and pencils instead, which he attaches row by row to a 3' by 4' fine-mesh screen. When the screen is filled, he makes a wooden frame and mounts the work on the light-brown paneled walls. Each year I go back to Kansas, another 20 square feet of basement are covered with these accumulated pens and pencils, and the effect is so peculiar that I like it. Cave decoration. I've stopped wondering why he does it beyond the stated reason: "just passing time."

My blue cap is cute, though not on me. My head is too big for it, that's true, but there's another problem: those gray hairs which the rim accentuates. Cuteness and gray hair together? If you're very lucky, Cuteness is for boys. I don't like it, but I am past the age of Cute, at an age when "passing time" has a sinister sound.

"You look dorky in that cap,"



Richard Schwarzenberger

my friend Henry tells me, confirming my suspicions. Clearly in the future I will be wearing the cap only to keep the sun off my nose. I will probably not be wearing it much.

It's not my nose or lips or even the shape of my head, but I can see what my sister saw. Why now? Why couldn't I have looked at 20 like he looked in his wedding picture, sculpted nose, curly dark hair rising squarely from his forehead? Beyond Cute, and by all appearances not self-conscious about it. (Say that about a gay man.) I knew what my mother meant when she said, "The first time I saw him, I said, 'He's for me.'"

I wondered, in a parallel world, would that be a face that attracts me? I couldn't tell, and can't now. Associations fog the question, and it's just as well.

Yet I manage to project a remoteness in his look which precedes my existence, an inaccessibility. I never wanted to be like that, stiff, tongue-tied. I worry about becoming that now. It's been a year since I had a good affair, four years since my Richy died. I fear an emerging isolation, a plains-bare homesteading, a northward drift. No. I am not settling for that.

At my sister's wedding last month, a toast was drunk in honor of my parents' 58th wedding anniversary, celebrated the week before. At the insistence of spoons touching glasses, they kissed. I saw the shock on my deaf cousin Jody's face. She wheeled and mouthed the words to her brother, "First time I ever saw

that!" It was my second — or would have been if I had not turned away in embarrassment.

These days whenever we part company, my father hugs me and says, "I love you," words that he learned from his children, especially my sisters. The hug remains awkward, but it is warm, genuine. I love him.

His hair is not dark and curly anymore. It's straight and brown on top, gray above his ears and at his temples, not unlike mine. It occurs to me that rather than my growing to look like him, we are each growing to look more like the other, that my path forward is crossed by his journey back, to amend the past, perhaps.

Middle Age is where we meet, surrounded by wildernesses, territory that we will never explore. I don't expect him ever to read a book or sing in the shower or ask me about my love life. I will not talk to him about the pitfalls of vanity in the life of a middle-aged gay man, about my fears of isolation. I will not show him this essay.

So I protect my own silences, and time passes, is passed. He turns 80 in December. I will go back to Kansas to celebrate. We will do what we are used to doing, including the farewell hug.

Another framed assembly of pens as affectless as the others will be tacked to the paneling. Not completely affectless. These are pens that won't get lost, won't get valuable, won't get used but will probably go dry, a reservoir of all the Things That Didn't Get Written or Said. Occasionally I feel saddened by them; occasionally I sense an abundance, a potential gusher, if I could uncup it. ▼

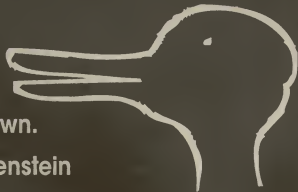
Richard Schwarzenberger learned to spell at an early age. In the eighth grade he was the Salina Diocese catechism contest winner. He is a published poet, short story writer, and garden columnist for the *East Bay Monthly*.

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Latin Hustle consists of Jaime Cortez, who calls himself an "abducted princess"; Lito Sandoval, a Mission district poet/performer; and Al Lujan, a visual artist and writer whose work has been published in *Best American Erotica '96*, *Best Gay Erotica '97*, and the forthcoming *Sex Spoken Here*.

Full Frontal Rudity runs January 29- February 7 in the Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. Call 861-5079 for tickets and information. ▼

FILM

Dirty Mary

Sam Fuller's 'The Naked Kiss'

by Gary Morris

The opening sequence of *The Naked Kiss* is justly celebrated as one of the most unnerving in cinema. The story just starts, no credits, in the midst of a brutal attack on a pimp by one of his whores. The lack of credits is part of writer-director Sam Fuller's (1911-1997) strategy to disorient the audience. Fuller magnifies the sense of a world out of whack with shaky, hand-held camerawork and a screaming saxophone. But it's the imagery that is most unsettling: while the whore is bashing the pimp's face with a high heel, her wig falls off to reveal that she is actually bald. This increases her rage and accelerates the assault; when finally satisfied, she inexplicably pauses to collect a small amount of money — "just what you owe me, eighty dollars!"

The Naked Kiss was Fuller's follow-up to *Shock Corridor* (1963), and it's every bit as tabloid-theatrical as the opening implies. The whore, Kelly (Constance Towers), leaves town to escape the wrath of her bloodied pimp. She settles in "Grantville," fucks the town cop, then decides to give up prostitution for a job at a hospital for crippled children, where her program in self-reform flourishes. She teaches the children to sing mournful ditties about their disabilities ("Why can't I fly? Tell me why"), rescues one new friend from a life of whoredom, and pays for another to have her kid rather



Constance Towers and Michael Dante in *The Naked Kiss*.

than abort. In short, she transforms herself and the town; Grantville becomes a paradise of Old World morality, with Kelly desperately righting every "wrong" she sees, usually violently. Kelly reverts to her old ways, however, when she discovers that her fiancé, the beloved, wealthy Grant, has a very nasty secret.

Fuller leavens these grim proceedings with a kind of hard-boiled humor that approaches camp, and makes the operatic plot compulsively watchable. Absurdly terse character names like Griff, Grant, and Buff abound. And then there's the local whorehouse, run by an aging shrew called "Candy." Everyone refers to her

girls as "bon-bons," but they answer to names like "Hatrack" and "Marshmallow." But Fuller's primitive poetry resonates throughout, and lines like Kelly's cautionary remark to a young girl contemplating prostitution — "you'll be sleeping on the skin of a nightmare for the rest of your life" — rival anything in the work of Jim Thompson or James Cain. ▽

The Naked Kiss plays January 16-22 at the Roxie Cinema, 3125 16th Street. Call 431-3611 for information.

OBITUARY

British composer dies

Composer Sir Michael Tippett, one of the leading figures of 20th-century music, died last week in London at age 93. He'd been suffering from pneumonia for two months, said Meirion Bowen, Tippett's manager and biographer.

Tippett's works, including opera, choral, orchestral, chamber and piano music, fused strong rhythms, jazz, spirituals, madrigal-like counterpoint, and imaginative new sounds, such as the wind machine that ends his Fourth Symphony.

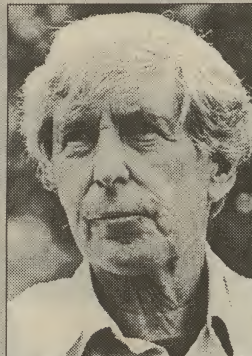
His most famous work, the oratorio *A Child of Our Time*, begun days after the outbreak of World War II, grew out of his outrage at the general apathy toward the plight of Jewish refugees. The piece was first performed in 1944.

Michael Kemp Tippett entered the Royal College of Music in 1923 knowing, as he said, "absolutely nothing about music." He was 30 when his first work, *The First String Quartet*, was published in 1935.

In the years following World War II, Tippett completed the First Symphony and two additional string quartets. He also composed the first of his operas, *The Midsummer Marriage*, which premiered in 1955 at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

The opera was followed by two large-scale orchestral works, *Fantasia Concertante on a Theme of Corelli* and the Second Symphony. Tippett left behind his early lyricism with a drastic modernizing of style in his second opera, *King Priam*, which premiered in 1962 at the opening of the new Coventry Cathedral.

Tippett, often provocative, confronted social issues squarely in his work. A homosexual, he composed a love scene between two men for his third opera, *The Knot Garden*, about group therapy. The work was premiered in 1969. Tippett's fourth opera, *The Ice Break*, featured a race riot and a psychedelic sequence. The composer was knighted in 1966. ▽



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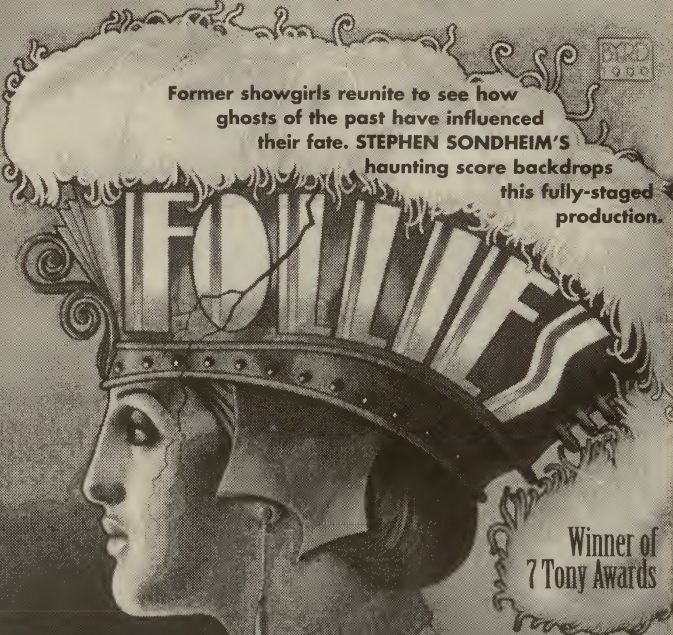
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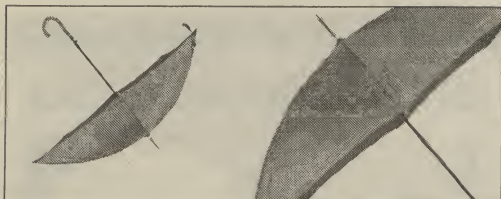


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Dangerous liaisons

Paula Vogel and 'How I Learned to Drive'

by Richard Dodds

Playwright Paula Vogel wants to shake up our notions about victims and their abusers. "We're in a climate where we wallow in victimization, and that becomes a kind of second trauma," said the author of *How I Learned to Drive*, her acclaimed play now at Berkeley Repertory Theatre. "It's not healthy, and it's not empowering."

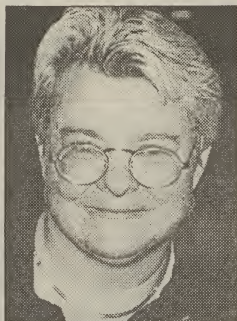
In the play, Vogel examines the relationship between a teenaged girl and an uncle-by-marriage as they do a dangerous dance of increasing intimacy. "I wanted to create a real female hero, but I also wanted us to love and sympathize with him," Vogel said of the two protagonists. "Treating someone as a black-and-white villain doesn't help anything."

Presented in flashbacks that skip about in time, *How I Learned to Drive* lays out its tale like a mosaic that only becomes clear when the final tile is placed. For Lil Bit, who narrates the story as a forty-something woman, the time she spends as a girl with her sensitive, supportive Uncle Peck begins as a respite from her boorish family before moving toward a seduction in which both parties are complicit.

This is obviously a dangerous dramatic road Vogel is traveling, but the play has been embraced by critics and audiences who seem willing to take the ride. Since opening last year, *How I Learned to Drive* has won just about every prize an off-Broadway play can win, bringing career-altering success to its 46-year-old author.

Berkeley Rep, in a co-production with the Magic Theatre, is the first theater outside New York to present *How I Learned to Drive*, and Vogel, who lives in Providence, Rhode Island, has been in Berkeley for several weeks observing rehearsals and advising director Molly D. Smith. "I do sometimes question the director, but not very aggressively," she said. Vogel and Smith have been friends and frequent colleagues since the two met at Catholic University in Washington, DC 25 years ago.

That was about the same time that Vogel made two important discoveries about herself, namely that she is a lesbian and that she wanted to be a playwright. Vogel had first recognized her attraction to other women at 17, and four years later, while falling in love for



Playwright Paula Vogel

the first time, she announced her sexuality to friends and family. Ironically, it took being told that she wasn't very convincing as a lesbian in a college production of *The Killing of Sister George* to convince Vogel that writing, not acting, should be her goal.

Success didn't come quickly. Vogel wrote 19 plays before *The Baltimore Waltz* brought the playwright her first acclaim in 1992. The play was inspired by her brother's death and a trip they never took together. A few years before, her brother Carl, a San Francisco librarian, had invited Vogel to join him on a vacation to Europe. She declined, not realizing that he was HIV positive. By the time she found out, he was too sick to travel, and the play became a fantasy version of the missed opportunity.

It was Carl who, years before, had shaken his younger sister out of a suburban stupor in Maryland, where a secretarial career seemed the most reasonable goal. He gave her a copy of Kate Millet's *Sexual Politics* and told her to start thinking for herself. She is still thanking him, and includes in every play a hidden "little postcard" to her brother.

Vogel calls Maryland a place of "paralysis and sameness," and she pointedly chose it as the setting for *How I Learned to Drive*. Because of that and several other parallels to her own life, Vogel is often asked if she lived through the events of the play. "No," she said, "but I can imagine how you can cross the line. As a girl I had crushes on teachers that caused me great pain, and I later found out that in one case it was requited. It still causes me great regret that I didn't try to seduce her."

At Brown University, where

Vogel has taught playwriting since 1985, she has encountered students who have lost their ways because of abusive relationships. "A lot of this play came out of being a teacher for 13 years," she said. "I wanted to give a little gift to those young people, to show that there can be little gifts in the pain."

Surprisingly, the other inspiration for *How I Learned to Drive* came from her love of that notorious tale of pedophilia, Nabokov's *Lolita*. She was fascinated by its neutral, even-handed tone, and for years she wondered what would it be like if a woman had written the novel.

"I think for the first time being a woman playwright actually helped me," she said of *How I Learned to Drive*. "If it hadn't been written by a woman, the reactions might not be so sympathetic." Even so, there were gasps at the first performances in New York as audiences realized what the story was about. But that reaction disappeared. "The actors said, 'Oh, they've read the reviews,'" Vogel recalled. "The innocence was gone. Maybe it will be back in Berkeley."



Cindy Basco as Lil' Bit

One thing that is certain, Vogel said, is that Berkeley audiences will be seeing a production that is considerably different from the New York staging. "It's darker, it's funnier, and it's bolder," she said. "In New York, director Mark Brokaw wanted to do it light, and Molly has other ideas. It's like the difference between a watercolor and an oil painting."

Vogel is now working on the film version of *How I Learned to Drive*, and in addition to other screen and television projects, she plans to write several plays for the Arena Theatre in Washington, DC, where Molly Smith was recently appointed artistic director.

There may even be a Broadway musical in Vogel's future. She has been asked by a team of New York producers to rewrite *On a Clear Day You Can See Forever* with a gay twist, and it might open at Berkeley Rep before Broadway. "I told them it's bound to be tagged 'On a Queer Day,' and if they can live with that, I'll do it," she said.

After the success of *The Baltimore Waltz*, Vogel went to a part-time schedule at Brown. Now she is on leave so she can pursue full-time the opportunities that *How I Learned to Drive* is providing. "Baltimore Waltz was my first breakthrough play," Vogel said. "I think this is my permanent breakthrough play. Now I feel like an insider. It's been a long time coming." ▼

How I Learned to Drive runs January 14-February 27 at Berkeley Rep. For tickets and information, call (510) 845-4700.

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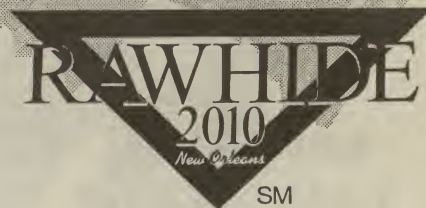
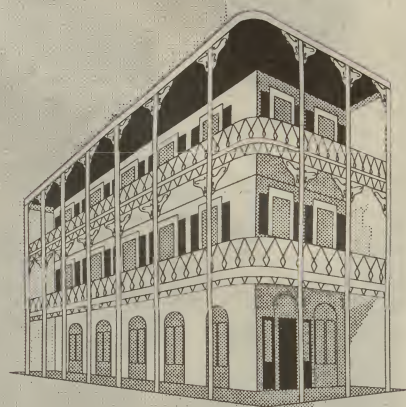
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Scott O'Hara

◀ Arts cover

"Most people will assume that Leuko is me, and I won't deny it," O'Hara said, before cryptically adding, "All the characters are me."

He briefly had fantasies of performing in the musical himself before ruling it out. "I'm not an actor," he said, "and I wanted this to be the best production it could be. I know my limitations."

O'Hara, 36, may not be an actor, but there is no question that he has been a performer. He start-

Mechanics) and the autobiographical *Autopornography*.

In the latter, he chronicled his early family life in Oregon, his first sexual fantasies and experiences, his career in porn, and, in graphic detail, his enthusiastic embrace of promiscuity. Ironically, he now questions the reality of that enthusiasm.

"I hate to rewrite history, but I wonder how much I actually enjoyed it," he said. "I think I liked the idea of sex more than the actual act."

In *Rarely Pure and Never Simple*, a new collection of essays due out later this year, O'Hara will dis-

"'Ex-Lovers' was inspired by my sentimental memories of San Francisco, and the way the gay community is fashioned out of ex-lovers, and how unusual and wonderful that is."

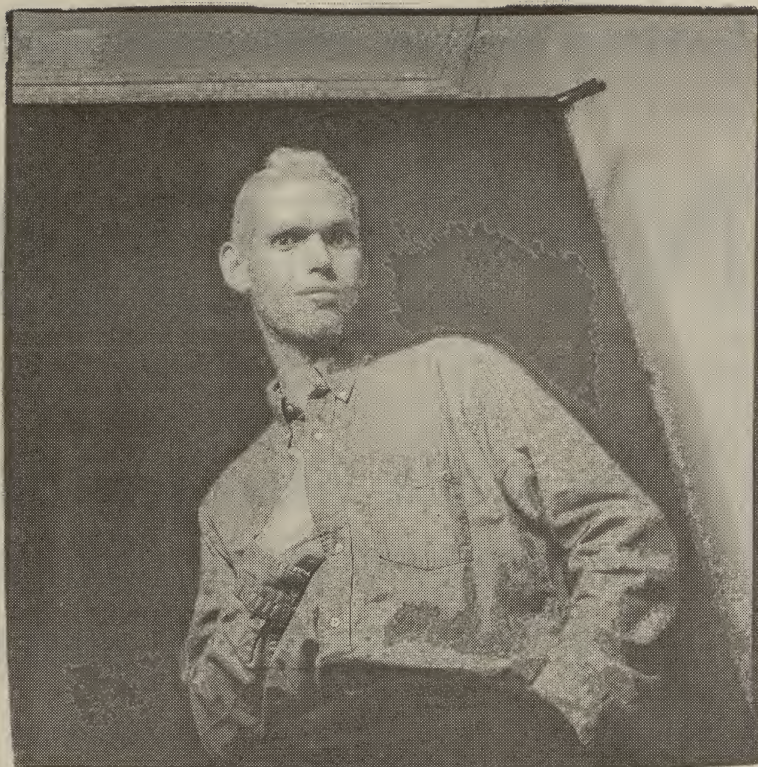
ed on stage at Savages (now the Campus Theater) in 1983, and soon he was appearing on camera as well. Between 1983 and 1988, he made 22 films and videos, including *Sgt. Swann's Private Files*, *Below the Belt*, *Switch Hitters II*, and *Head Over Heels: The Complete Guide to Autofellatio*.

With the discovery that he had Kaposi's sarcoma lesions in 1989, he ended his porn career and moved into writing. He helped edit and publish the now-defunct literary sex journal *Steam*, and wrote two books, including *Do It Yourself Piston Polishing* (for Non-

cuss the changes he's gone through in recent years — "like the disappearance of my sex life and where it stands in my hierarchy," O'Hara said.

And where does it stand? "Pretty low," he said. "I owe it mostly to psychological reasons. I don't want sex to be safe, but you need to measure your risks carefully, so I've become practically a Puritan."

As he looks back, O'Hara claims no regrets. "I don't regret my time in video because I'm glad to have that record," he said. "And I have no hesitation about the



Scott O'Hara

performances at Savages. I mean, what's not to love? Looking out and seeing a crowd of men with their eyes glued to you, knowing that you're getting them off — that's an ego boost."

Even as he second-guesses his once overwhelming love of sex, he sees an upside. "Whether or not I was actually getting pleasure at the time, it has proven useful to me," he said. "It taught me a great deal about sex, people, and emotion."

Not surprisingly, those are the main ingredients in *Ex-Lovers*, a project O'Hara says represented "my last remaining dream." Unfortunately, the joy of seeing that dream come true has been tempered by a recent return of the lymphoma. "I was foolishly trying to delay dealing with it until after the play," he said. "But for me, chemotherapy is tolerable. I'll still

be there on opening night."

O'Hara is not convinced that the lymphoma is AIDS-related. "AIDS is not a problem for me, at least not physically," he said. "Emotionally, it's caused a lot of turmoil, but most of it good. I'm generally in favor of turmoil. We're all in danger of being too placid. There's a line in the play, 'With friends like these, who needs a hurricane?' I've wanted to be that hurricane." ▼

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Rebecca Weems (above) and Rodney Washington will give a first-ever public reading of their new play, *A Certain Type o' Misunderstandin'*, at Cabaret Castro, 150 Eureka St. (at 18th), on Friday, Jan. 16, at 8 p.m. The play concerns the experiences of an African-American transgendered man growing up in the South. Admission is sliding scale, \$5-\$10, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. Call (415) 552-6031 for more information. ▼



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Saving movies

Most perishable art form finds a saviour

by Matthew Kennedy



Robert DeNiro in *Raging Bull*.

The Castro Theatre plays host to an intoxicating array of movies next week when the National Film Registry brings a selection of America's cinematic treasures to San Francisco. But this isn't just a random outpouring of a century of film history. These films have been marked for preservation by the NFR, which aims to bring the dire need of film preservation and restoration to greater public awareness.

"The tour is foremost about educating the public on the fragility of film and the urgency of restoration," says Felisa Kazen, coordinator of the tour. "There are so many films in need of protection and we simply don't have the money necessary to meet the need. The tour, we hope, will raise awareness and funds."

Anyone who tunes into American Movie Classics or Turner



Greta Garbo and Melvyn Douglas in *Ninotchka*.

Classic Movies on TV hears the pleas for donations. The benefits of preservation to film lovers are

enormous. While cleaned-up prints and soundtracks make the rounds on cable television and into the video market, a number of high-profile cinematic face-lifts have found their way into theaters for re-release, including *Lawrence of Arabia*, *Spartacus*, *A Star Is Born* (George Cukor version), *El Cid*, *Vertigo*, *Doctor Zhivago*, and *My Fair Lady*.

Because many of these films are available on video, there is a tendency among filmgoers to think film restoration is more snobbish than necessary. But this is a misconception; it's really about biology. The eyes and ears are better equipped to receive the glories of film on a large scale, as the enraptured audiences that sold out the run of *Vertigo* at the Castro last year will confirm. When the senses are at full-tilt, the heart and mind are quick to follow.

Despite current efforts to save movies, the losses have been enormous. An estimated 80 percent of all films made before 1920 are gone, and about 50 percent of those made in America before 1950 are either decomposing or have been destroyed. "Early producers were not generally seeing movies as historic investments," says Kazen. "Movies were an ephemeral art of planned obsolescence. Miles of film were destroyed to extract the silver from silver-nitrate stock." Not even the sacred cows were well-tended. The original negatives of *Citizen Kane* and the 1956 Academy Award Best Picture winner *Around the World in 80 Days* no longer exist.

When scientific data about the rate of decay came to light in the last decade, action was taken. In 1988, the 18-member National Film Preservation Board, a raucous assembly of directors, critics, actors, writers, and archivists established by an arm of the Library of Congress, created the National Film Registry, whose sole task is to select 25 films each year for preservation. Of the 200-plus films that have been earmarked so far, there are lots of familiar biggies from the past, including *The Birth of a Nation*, *The Wizard of Oz*, and *Stagecoach*, as well as newer features like *Taxi Driver*, *E.T.*, and *Nashville*. In addition to feature films, the Registry also houses newsreels, documentaries, ethnographies, avant-garde shorts, and animated films.

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INDICATIONS AND USAGE

ZERIT (stavudine) is indicated for the treatment of HIV-infected patients who have received prolonged prior zidovudine therapy. The duration of clinical benefit from antiretroviral therapy may be limited. Alteration in antiretroviral therapy should be considered if disease progression occurs while receiving ZERIT.

CLINICAL STUDIES

Study A1455-019 was a multi-center, randomized, double-blind trial of ZERIT Capsules vs zidovudine for the treatment of HIV-infected adults with CD4 counts of 50 to 500 cells/mm³ who had received at least six months prior zidovudine treatment. ZERIT was administered in dosages of 40 mg BID for patients weighing ≥60 kg, and 30 mg BID for those weighing <60 kg. The zidovudine dosage was 200 mg TID. The study enrolled 822 patients with a median baseline CD4 count of 235 cells/mm³ (range: 10 to 735 cells/mm³), and a median duration of prior zidovudine treatment of 48 weeks (range: 11 to 356 weeks). Fourteen percent of subjects had AIDS at baseline, 50% had HIV-related symptoms and 36% were asymptomatic. Table 1 gives the Kaplan-Meier estimates for the time to disease progression.

Time to Disease Progression	First AIDS - Defining Event or Death*	
	ZERIT	zidovudine
6 months	4.4%	5.7%
12 months	10.4%	14.1%
18 months	19.5%	23.3%
24 months	26.6%	31.8%

* Kaplan-Meier estimates; the overall difference between stavudine and zidovudine was not significant.

CONTRAINDICATIONS

ZERIT is contraindicated in patients with clinically significant hypersensitivity to stavudine or any of the components contained in the formulation.

WARNINGS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. This complication occurred in 19 and 24 percent of the 11,764 patients with advanced HIV disease who received the two dose levels of stavudine in the Parallel Track Program. In patients with less advanced HIV infection in the zidovudine comparative trial, peripheral neuropathy occurred in 13 percent of ZERIT-treated patients as compared to 4 percent of zidovudine-treated patients. Patients should be monitored for the development of neuropathy that is usually characterized by numbness, tingling, or pain in the feet or hands. Stavudine-related peripheral neuropathy may resolve if therapy is withdrawn promptly. In some cases, symptoms may worsen temporarily following discontinuation of therapy. If symptoms resolve completely, resumption of treatment may be considered at a reduced dose.

Patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy are at increased risk for the development of neuropathy. If stavudine must be administered in this clinical setting, careful monitoring is essential.

PRECAUTIONS

Information for Patients
Patients should be informed that ZERIT is not a cure for HIV infection, and that they may continue to acquire illnesses associated with HIV infection, including opportunistic infections. Patients should be advised to remain under the care of a physician when using ZERIT.

Patients should be informed that the most common toxicity of ZERIT is peripheral neuropathy. Symptoms of peripheral neuropathy usually include tingling, burning, pain, or numbness in the hands or feet. Patients should be counseled that this toxicity occurs with greater frequency in patients with a history of peripheral neuropathy. They should be advised that these symptoms should be reported to their physicians and that dose changes may be necessary. They should also be cautioned about the use of other medications that may exacerbate peripheral neuropathy.

Carriers of young children receiving ZERIT therapy should be instructed regarding detection and reporting of peripheral neuropathy. Patients should be informed that the long-term effects of ZERIT are unknown at this time. They should be advised that ZERIT therapy has not been shown to reduce the risk of transmission of HIV to others through sexual contact or blood contamination.

Patients should be informed that the Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that HIV-infected mothers not nurse newborn infants to reduce the risk of postnatal transmission of HIV infection.

Laboratory Tests

Mild to moderate increases in AST (SGOT) and ALT (SGPT) occurred commonly in clinical trials; these did not interfere with continued therapy.

Carcinogenesis, Mutagenesis, Impairment of Fertility
Long-term carcinogenicity studies of stavudine in animals have not been completed. Stavudine was not mutagenic in the Ames, *E. coli* reverse mutation, or the CHO/HGPRT mammalian cell forward gene mutation assays, with and without metabolic activation. Stavudine produced positive results in the *in vitro* human lymphocyte clastogenesis and mouse fibroblast assays, and in the *in vivo* mouse micronucleus test. In the *in vitro* assays, stavudine elevated the frequency of chromosome aberrations in human lymphocytes (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, without metabolic activation) and increased the frequency of transformed foci in mouse fibroblast cells (concentrations of 25 to 250 µg/mL, with and without metabolic activation).

* The parallel track program (STUDY A1455-000) treated 12,551 HIV-infected patients with CD4 counts <300/mm³ who had failed, were intolerant of, or had contraindications to other therapies.

In the *in vivo* micronucleus assay, stavudine was clastogenic in bone marrow cells following oral stavudine administration to mice at dosages of 600 to 2000 mg/kg/day for 3 days.

No evidence of impaired fertility was seen in rats with exposures (based on C₅₀) up to 216 times that observed following a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day.

Pregnancy

Pregnancy Category C: Reproduction studies have been performed in rats and rabbits with exposures (based on C₅₀) up to 399 and 183 times, respectively, of that seen at a clinical dosage of 1 mg/kg/day and have revealed no evidence of teratogenicity. The incidence in fetuses of a common skeletal variation, unossified or incomplete ossification of sternebra, was increased in rats at 399 times human exposure, while no effect was observed at 216 times human exposure. A slight post-implantation loss was noted at 216 times the human exposure with no effect noted at approximately 135 times the human exposure. An increase in early rat neonatal mortality (birth to 4 days of age) occurred at 399 times the human exposure, while survival of neonates was unaffected at approximately 135 times the human exposure. A study in rats showed that stavudine is transferred to the fetus through the placenta. The concentration in fetal tissue was approximately one-half the concentration in maternal plasma. There are no adequate and well-controlled studies in pregnant women. Because animal reproduction studies are not always predictive of human response, stavudine should be used during pregnancy only if clearly needed.

Nursing Mothers

Studies in lactating rats demonstrated that stavudine is excreted in milk. Although it is not known whether stavudine is excreted in human milk, there exists the potential for adverse effects from stavudine in nursing infants. Mothers should be instructed to discontinue nursing if they are receiving stavudine. This is consistent with the recommendation by the U.S. Public Health Service Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that HIV-infected mothers not breast-feed their infants to avoid risking postnatal transmission of HIV.

Pediatric Use

Use of stavudine in pediatric patients is supported by evidence from adequate and well-controlled studies of stavudine in adults with additional safety data in 115 pediatric patients and pharmacokinetic data in 25 of these patients.

Stavudine pharmacokinetics have been evaluated in 25 HIV-infected pediatric patients (age range: 5 weeks to 15 years, weight range: 2 to 43 kg) after IV and oral administration of 0.125, 0.5, 1, and 2 mg/kg as single doses and as BID regimens. The mean ± SD absolute bioavailability was 76.9 ± 31.7% (n=20). Peak plasma concentration (C_{max}) and area under the plasma concentration-time curve (AUC) increased in proportion to dose after both single and multiple doses.

Following intravenous infusions (n=21), the mean ± SD volume of distribution was 18.5 ± 9.1 L/m². The distribution of stavudine into cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) was assessed in 8 pediatric patients after 12 weeks of multiple oral dosing. The concentration of stavudine in CSF samples ranged from 0.008 to 0.105 µg/mL at times ranging from 2 to 5 hours post-dose (dose ranging from 0.125 to 1 mg/kg). CSF concentrations ranged from 16% to 125% (mean ± SD of 59% ± 35%) of the concentration in simultaneous plasma samples.

The terminal elimination half-life after oral or intravenous administration of stavudine was approximately one hour. The mean ± SD total body clearance after intravenous infusion was 247 ± 94 mL/min/m². The mean ± SD apparent oral clearance was 333 ± 87 mL/min/m². The percent of the dose excreted unchanged in the urine was 34.5% after oral administration.

The clearance of stavudine is related to both body surface area and body weight. When dosing according to body weight, the recommended dosage for pediatric patients weighing less than 30 kg is 2 mg/kg/day in divided doses. Pediatric patients weighing 30 kg or greater should receive the recommended adult dose.

ADVERSE REACTIONS

The major clinical toxicity of ZERIT (stavudine) is peripheral neuropathy (see "WARNINGS" section).

Adults: Peripheral neuropathy is dose related (see Table 2). Modest elevation of hepatic transaminases was also observed commonly in controlled trials.

Adverse Events	Study A1455-019		Parallel Track Program	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=5905)	zidovudine (20 mg BID) (n=5879)
Peripheral Neuropathy				
Grade 1-2	11	3	20	17
Grade 3-4	2	1	4	2
Total	13	4	24	19

Selected adverse events that occurred in adult patients receiving ZERIT in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A1455-019) are provided in Table 3.

Adverse Events	Study A1455-019	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
Headache	54	49
Chills/Fever	50	51
Diarrhea	50	43
Rash	40	35
Nausea and Vomiting	38	44
Abdominal Pain	34	27
Myalgia	32	35
Insomnia	29	31
Anorexia	19	22
Allergic Reaction	9	8
Pancreatitis	1	1

* The event was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

† Includes all clinical complaints.

‡ Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

Laboratory abnormalities reported in the Phase 3 controlled comparative trial (Study A1455-019) are shown in Table 4.

Lab Tests (units)	Study A1455-019	
	ZERIT (40 mg BID) (n=412)	zidovudine (200 mg TID) (n=402)
AST (SGOT) (<5.0 x ULN)	11	10
ALT (SGPT) (<5.0 x ULN)	13	11
Bilirubin (<5.0 x ULN)	2	2
Anemia (<3.0 g/dL)	-	3
Neutropenia (neutrophils <750/mm ³)	5	9
Thrombocytopenia (platelets <50,000/mm ³)	3	3
Amylase (<1.4 x ULN)	14	13

* This abnormality was reported in fewer than 1% of patients.

† Data presented for patients for whom laboratory evaluations were performed.

‡ Median duration of stavudine therapy = 79 weeks; median duration of zidovudine therapy = 53 weeks.

§ ULN = upper limit of normal.

Pediatric Patients: Adverse reactions and serious laboratory abnormalities in pediatric patients were similar in type and frequency to those seen in adult patients.

OVERDOSSAGE

Experience with adults treated with 12 to 24 times the recommended daily dosage revealed no acute toxicity. Complications of chronic overdosage include peripheral neuropathy and hepatic toxicity. It is not known whether stavudine is eliminated by peritoneal dialysis or hemodialysis.

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30 mg	Light orange & dark orange	BMS 1966	30	60 0003-1966-01
40 mg	Dark orange	BMS 1967	40	60 0003-1967-01

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Inspecting the crown jewels

Old and new in National Film Registry tour

by Matthew Kennedy

The National Film Registry tour coming next week to the Castro Theatre is nothing less than a miniature what's-what of American movies. See these nuggets and you can hold your own at any haughty cocktail party when the subject turns to *cinemah*.

Some titles may be familiar to filmgoers, but most on this list are seldom seen. Naturally, the urge to editorialize about the chosen few is irresistible, and my run-down of the titles in the Registry's line-up is hardly impartial. Still, with the best of the best, good outweighs bad.

It only makes sense that Stanley Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* (1968) would be chosen for preservation. The film was made at a time when we still marveled at the infinity of space, which has never been used more effectively by a film director as the setting for a meditation on good and evil, the nature of human

protracted scene, the border of the studio cyclorama is in camera range. Lillian Gish is cloying, and nobody would mistake that mannequin at the bottom of the United Artists' swimming pool for Shelley Winters. Laughton aimed high, but the arrow fell short.

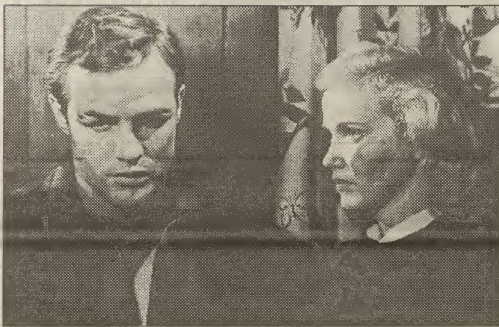
On the *Waterfront* (1954) is a great movie of dockside corruption, with career-defining performances by Marlon Brando, Eva Marie Saint, Karl Malden, Lee J. Cobb, and Rod Steiger. The early Leonard Bernstein score arches with emotion, and Elia Kazan's direction is first-rate. Masterful as it is, though, *On the Waterfront* remains enshrouded in controversy. Kazan was a communist prior to naming names to the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in the early '50s. After that bit of "redemption," he was rewarded with a ten-year string of prestigious projects that included such films as *On the Waterfront*, *Viva Zapata!*, *East of Eden*, *Baby Doll*, *A Face in the Crowd*, *Wild River*, *Splendor in the Grass*, and



Kubrick's *2001: A Space Odyssey* is one of 200 American films marked for preservation by the NFR.

the representative enduring musical. *Gigi* is something of a cinematic miracle — an original screen creation of effervescent sound and color that spawned no imitators. How poignant that the great MGM musical tradition sailed into history on a raft of big box-office critical kudos and nine Oscars. Public tastes were changing, and the next few years brought plenty of predigested Broadway musical imports to Hollywood, rather than original bon-bons like *Gigi*.

Last on the playbill is F.W. Murnau's silent masterpiece *Sunrise* (1927), with Charles Farrell and Janet Gaynor as lovable rustics. Cinematographers Karl Strauss and Charles Rosher won the first-ever Academy Award, but *Sunrise* offers more than unspeakable visual beauty. In acting, storytelling, special effects, and direction, the film is an elemental allegory for all that movies were to become. ▼



Marlon Brando and Eva Marie Saint in *On the Waterfront*.

consciousness, and our place in the universe. Indeed, subsequent star-gazers George Lucas and Steven Spielberg have only managed to trivialize the heavens with speeding rockets and cuddly aliens. Ponderous to perfection, *2001* is still the ultimate trip.

And there can be no argument with the selection of John Ford's startling western *The Searchers* (1956), a powerful film about the white man's reluctant reflection on Indian humanity. *Out of the Past* (1947) is textbook noir — tough guys, a femme fatale, shadows and light, pointed guns, and shocking truths. The so-called neo-noir *Chinatown* (1974) is still horrifying, perhaps because director Roman Polanski, screenwriter Robert Towne, and stars Jack Nicholson, Faye Dunaway, and John Huston treated the plot's rotten core as Grand Guignol tragedy. Nicholson, never more charismatic as J.J. Gittes, becomes the eyes of the audience, and by the last reel all he can do is look on in helpless dread as fate comes crashing down on the pitiable Evelyn Mulwray.

There are certainly dozens of films more worthy of the Registry's attention than *Ninotchka* (1939). Sure, Garbo laughs, but when the dour lady thaws, the movie loses its edge. It works only when Garbo mocks her own cheerless demeanor. And to these eyes, *The Night of the Hunter* (1955) is overrated. This was Charles Laughton's one and only directorial effort, and he presents a compelling vision of hinterland sin drenched in Biblical references. But for one appallingly

America, America. He met each challenge, but when Brando's Terry Malloy in *On the Waterfront* arches his spine and informs on the mob, the unholy specter of Kazan rendering a self-defense is glaring.

Contrast Kazan's story with Herbert J. Biberman's, whose *Salt of the Earth* (1954) is also on the bill. Biberman remained a passionate nemesis of HUAC. He refused to cooperate and was one of the blacklisted Hollywood Ten who served time in jail. The incendiary *Salt of the Earth* was not financed by Hollywood, and it wasn't until 1965 that the film got a U.S. release. Its hard-core realism outdoes even that of *On the Waterfront*, perhaps because Biberman employed actual striking Latino zinc miners to tell their own stories of wretched conditions in the New Mexico desert. But *Salt* is as much about emerging feminist consciousness and changing ethnic relations as it is a tribute to labor. As for Biberman's directorial skills, there is enough well-paced tension in the film to indicate the presence of a budding auteur. Sadly, he made only one film after *Salt of the Earth*, the decidedly odd *Slaves* (1969), before dying in 1971. The piddling output of *Salt*'s promising director is a sad reminder of Hollywood hooliganism.

Also screening are a few staples of film-appreciation classes everywhere, including *Shane* (1953) and Kubrick's other masterpiece, *Dr. Strangelove* (1964). There is the revisionist *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942), and the Franco-friendly *Gigi* (1958), a refreshing alternative to *Singin' in the Rain* as

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Dumb and dumber

'Figaro' and 'Tosca' yield few surprises

by Paul Thomason

The San Francisco Opera returned to the stage of the War Memorial last weekend to begin the final phase of its 75th season with four performances each of Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro* and Puccini's *Tosca*. If the opening performances are indicative of the entire run, opera lovers who cannot make this season coda need not slit their wrists.

The idea of reviving *Figaro* with current and recent Adler Fellows in the principal roles is a good one. The five principals have all sparkled in at least one assign-



Nicolle Foland and Anna Netrebko in *The Marriage of Figaro*.

ment recently, and *Figaro* often works well when given by still-developing artists. But the SF Opera sabotaged its young singers by not providing enough rehearsal time and entrusting this important step in their careers to a conductor who undermined their efforts at every turn. The results were a credit to no one, least of all the company itself, which is charging full ticket price (up to \$145) for what turned out to be — at best — a student performance. The audience, however, did not seem to mind. When not busy chatting,

always seemed uncomfortable.

In the capable hands of Sir Charles Mackerras or Patrick Summers, the results would have been much different. But Friday night only John Relyea as Figaro managed to create much of a character. Anna Netrebko (Susanna) sang out of tune far too often. As the Count, David Okerlund provided a deftly executed cadenza ("Vel leggo in volto!") in the finale to Act II, the embellishment as unexpected as it was appropriate. Nicolle Foland also provided wonderful decorations to the

When 45 minutes of on-stage torture, attempted rape, and murder cannot hold their own against thoughts of 'Do I have enough milk for breakfast tomorrow?' something is wrong.

it greeted most of the supertitles with gales of laughter, and rewarded the cast with so many cheers and bravos, one might have thought the legendary 1909 Metropolitan Opera cast of Sembrich, Eames, Farrar, Didur, and Scotti had been on stage.

In his U.S. opera debut, British conductor Ivor Bolton seemed disappointed that Mahler had not written the score. The orchestral playing varied from loud and rough to even louder and even rougher, which put an enormous barrier between the singers and the audience. The constant shifting between recitative and musical numbers could not have been more awkward, meaning that Mozart's delicious ensembles never unfolded naturally; they just took up time while singers, conductor, and different sections of the orchestra tried to agree on a single tempo. In fact, throughout the evening every tempo was either slightly too slow or too fast for the singers, which meant they

Countess's "Dove sono." Zheng Cao was Cherubino, Chester Patton was Dr. Bartolo, and Peggy Kriha Dye sang Barbarina.

Opera by numbers

Relyea was back the next evening, offering a strongly sung Angelotti in *Tosca*. Since the young bass was scheduled to repeat his Figaro the next afternoon (making three performances in three days, two of them in a title role), one wonders — yet again — what on earth is going through the head of whomever is making such decisions at SFO. But then, many of the casting decisions this season have been occasions for puzzlement, this *Tosca* no exception.

In her U.S. opera debut, Georgina Lukacs offered a loud and shrill Floria Tosca. For once, Cavaradossi (Mario Malagnini) was taller than his mistress, but there was no doubt that this Tosca could easily gobble him up for

page 51 ►

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BOOKS

LA law

by Deborah Peifer

The Burning Plain by Michael Nava; Putnam, \$23.95

Michael Nava's newest Henry Rios mystery is so extraordinary that we can safely designate 1998 a great year for fiction simply because it witnessed the publication of *The Burning Plain*. No kidding. This novel is astonishingly rich, deeply personal, highly political.

Oh yes, and it's a great mystery, too.

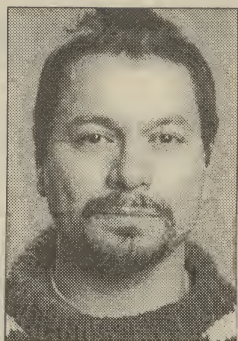
The Burning Plain is Nava's sixth Henry Rios mystery, and it may be his darkest look yet at the ways of gay life. The novel opens with a brutal battle over the custody of Rios' ex-lover's corpse. Josh asked to be cremated, and as his executor, Henry intends to carry out Josh's final wish. But Josh's parents, observant Jews, consider cremation anathema, and blame Henry both for Josh's death and his homosexuality. The scene is vivid and painful, and helps to establish the emotional bedlam of Henry's life. When he meets a young man who seems to be the embodiment of his beloved Josh, Henry becomes obsessed with Alex, an obsession that leads to catastrophe when Alex is murdered. "The moment I got into my car, I went into lawyer mode. I'd had sex and then scuffled with Alex American hours before he was murdered. I knew exactly how those circumstances would look to a cop and what they would do with them. Once they focused on a suspect, the object of their investigation was to establish guilt."

I should say that I really believe the police are here to help us, but in this story it doesn't always seem like it. The Los Angeles police are

willing to assume that Henry must be guilty because he's queer, and are perfectly willing to manufacture evidence to prove what they already know. Henry knows the system, but even with his skill and connections, he has trouble proving his innocence. The fate of those who are not so well-connected is an important part of this novel.

Although *The Burning Plain* is much more than a murder mystery, it is certainly a fine page-turner. Nava creates characters that are intense, vital, and necessary for us to know. They extend over a wide range of ages, genders, and sexualities, and each one has something important to contribute both to the machinations of the plot and to our understanding of the world in which we live. Consider Richie, Henry's friend, who explains about being institutionalized by parents who hated him for being queer. "They attached electrodes to my body and then showed me gay pornography, and when I responded, they sent an electronic current through me. They called this aversion therapy. I was fourteen years old. I'd never seen pornography before. My fantasy was to hold hands with the football captain between classes." The juxtaposition in one paragraph of the pain of betrayal with the sweetness of an innocent fantasy made me weep with tears of rage even as I smiled at Richie's simple wish.

Nava's characters are concerned, on many levels, with the idea of the afterlife. His title, in fact, refers to the place in hell where Dante consigned the violent, including homosexuals. Although questions of heaven and hell are raised throughout, the issues are always character-driven. Never does it seem that the author is lecturing his readers. Nava uses



Michael Nava

humor to good effect throughout *The Burning Plain*, even when considering such ethereal topics as eternity. (Henry's friend Grant Hancock thinks there is no hell, that the afterlife is "all heaven ... great food, good weather, hunky guys.")

There is much more to this novel than I have suggested here. Nava's characters have important observations to make concerning the ways in which we come to ourselves as sexual beings, and those observations are an integral part of their personalities. Henry muses about his client, Bob Travis, for example: "I guessed he was someone for whom coming out had been so traumatic he expected to be rewarded for it, and was disappointed to discover that all he had won was the right to be ordinary." *The Burning Plain* is an unforgettable reading experience that will change the way you think about everything. It just may break your heart at the same time. Don't miss it. ▼

advisors has the final say.

The films in the current NFR tour were selected by David J. Francis, world-renowned film conservator and Chief of Motion Picture, Broadcasting, and Recorded Sound Division at the Library of Congress. As expected, the titles are drawn from a variety of genres, eras, and cultural points of view. As for the tour itself, the Castro's nine-day San Francisco engagement is the only California stop in the NFR's 50-state gallop. "We seek out restored theaters," Kazen relates. "For California, there was some talk of taking the tour to San Diego or Oakland, where audiences are less aware of the need for preservation. But that's why we should come to San Francisco. There's such a huge and receptive audience here. We don't have to convince anyone to book beyond the standard classics."

Come and feast. ▼

The National Film Registry Tour runs January 21-29 at the Castro Theatre. The program opens on Wednesday, January 21 with screenings of three silent classics: *The Great Train Robbery*, *Gertie the Dinosaur*, and *The Cheat*. For tickets and information about other NFR programs, call 621-6120.



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Kushner double-dose

by Robert Julian

Tony Kushner in Conversation edited by Robert Vorlicky; University of Michigan Press, \$16.95

Approaching the Millennium: Essays on Angels in America edited by Deborah R. Geis and Steven F. Kruger; University of Michigan Press, \$17.95

Two new releases from the University of Michigan Press provide more information about Tony Kushner and his work than most readers may want to know. *Tony Kushner in Conversation* is the more readable of the two, since editor Robert Vorlicky has assembled the book from transcripts of live interviews. Three of these interviews come from the San Francisco "City Arts & Lectures" series at which Kushner spoke with Anna Devereaux Smith, Susan Sontag, and Michael Cunningham, respectively.

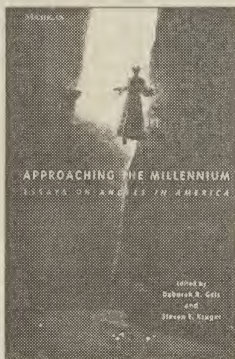


The depth of Kushner's knowledge and his honest responses make it impossible not to admire the playwright as a man of conscience and integrity. Patrick R. Pacheco's personal, probing questions about Kushner's HIV status and sexual history (for the periodical *Body Positive*) would make most people profoundly uncomfortable, but Kushner never declines a response or dodges a question. Editor Vorlicky goes from the ridiculous (Kushner with Liza Minnelli) to the sublime (Adam-Mars Jones with Kushner in London, just before the 1992 opening of *Millennium Approaches*). The final chapter of the book is an excerpt from Kushner's new novel-in-progress, *The Intelligent Homosexual's Guide to Socialism and Capitalism, With a Key to the Scriptures*.

In *Approaching the Millennium*, editors Deborah R. Geis and Steven F. Kruger have assembled almost 300 pages of essays on Kushner's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Angels in America*. For the serious Kushner scholar, this will be a

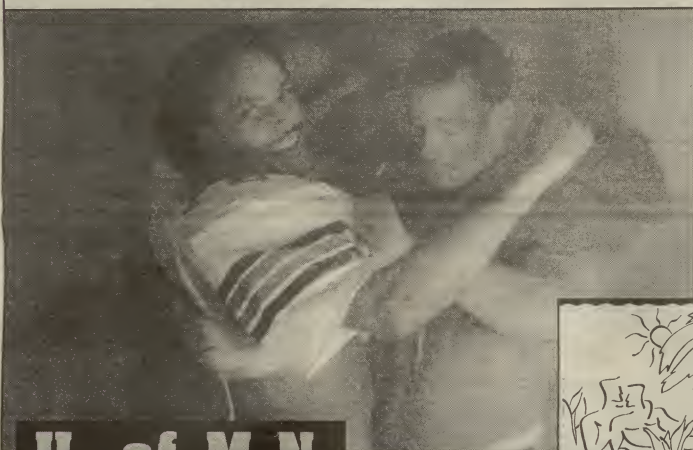
valuable compilation. The editors have divided the material into four basic categories, the most interesting entries being in the first and last quadrants. There are two outstanding essays in the first group, one by David Savran, who describes how Kushner's play reconstructs America, and one by Michael Cadden, who elaborates on the "pinklisting of Roy Cohn."

The last set of essays, collected under the heading "Theater of the Fabulous: *Angels in Performance Contexts*," gives the reader a



glimpse into the various productions of Kushner's masterpiece and how each serves the work differently. The editors include an interview with film director Robert Altman, in which he discusses rather vague notions of how he planned to bring Kushner's work to the screen. Altman has since been replaced by P.J. Hogan (*My Best Friend's Wedding*) as director, and the editor's interview with Altman leaves little doubt as to the appropriateness of this decision. ▼

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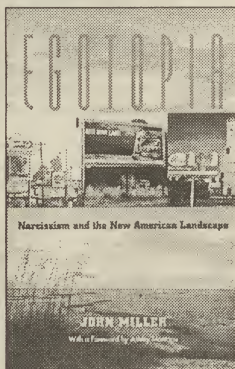
Aesthetically displeasing

by Robert Julian

Egotopia: Narcissism and the New American Landscape by John Miller; University of Alabama Press, \$16.95

Public relations consultant and philosophy major John Miller undertakes a philosophical analysis of the visual decline of the American landscape in this new work. The two questions Miller attempts to answer are: "Why have we permitted the most base elements of our society to determine how America looks and feels?" and, "Why have we permitted our public spaces to become foul and mean?"

Miller attributes the American proliferation of billboards and strip malls to our failure to educate the general population in the area of aesthetics and our national tendency to surrender to the will of the unwashed masses, who are constantly manipulated by advertising. Although tinged with elitist arrogance, Miller's work is often compelling, especially when he blows the lid off the billboard lobby and the highly effective way they buy votes from politicians. The ram-



pant egotism inherent in our society is, according to Miller, the Achilles' heel of our culture. By constantly working to empower the "I," Americans have ceased to consider the greater good of the "we."

As a philosophical treatise, *Egotopia*, despite its dense prose, does provoke thought. However, the book's main flaw is that Miller sets himself up as an arbiter of elevated aesthetic sensibilities without ever defining any criteria for excellence. ▼

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Money, guns, and country music

by Steven Jenkins

American Dreams by Bastienne Schmidt; Edition Stemmler/D.A.P., \$45

When the truck-driving hero of Wim Wenders' classic '70s film *Kings of the Road* says, "Americans have colonized our subconscious," he effectively sums up postwar Europe's love/hate relationship with John Wayne's U.S.A. For decades, European artists have gazed with fascination, envy, and horror at the red, white, and blue hallucination we call home. Benefiting from their status as outsiders looking in, groundbreaking émigré photographers of the '40s and '50s — like Lisette Model and Robert Frank — accurately depicted American loneliness, loopiness, and tarnished beauty in their brilliant black-and-white images.

The latest in this long line of European shutterbugs to become fascinated with our purple-mountain majesty is German photographer Bastienne Schmidt. Inspired by Frank's seminal series *The Americans*, Schmidt embarked on a coast-to-coast road trip a few years ago that recently culminated in the publication of *American Dreams*, her startling visual account of this journey. Schmidt's 73 chilling black-and-white images uncover the nation's diseased rituals and secret fantasies.



Fourteen-year-old girl marksmen from California with high-powered rifles.

Traveling by plane, car, Greyhound bus, and on foot, Schmidt encountered perky cheerleaders, teenage rodeo cowboys, death-row inmates, and maids at the Beverly Wiltshire Hotel. All of her subjects are pictured in a fragmented world of random violence, class division, and gung-ho optimism. As art critic Vicki Goldberg writes in her incisive introduction, "This America, mourning some of its tattered dreams, is intent on having a good time but isn't altogether up to the task."

Schmidt (like most of us) is both attracted to and repelled by such archetypal American absurdities as the Miss Olympia body-building competition, the kitschy Wigwam Hotel in New Mexico, and wax-

museum figurines of the Kennedy clan. She visits Venice Beach, Monument Valley, and Coney Island, attends an NRA championship in Cleveland, and observes the cult-like country-western scene in Branson, Missouri (Willie Nelson never looked so spooky).

Schmidt's darkly comic view of our national psyche is best represented in her perfect picture of a face-lifted, rhinestone-studded Hollywood real-estate agent who holds a phone to each ear, and whose life, Schmidt writes, "fits the pattern of a Danielle Steele novel." Like her similarly haunting images of the AIDS quilt and an East LA mural honoring Selena, this portrait of desperation defines America's faded promise. ▽

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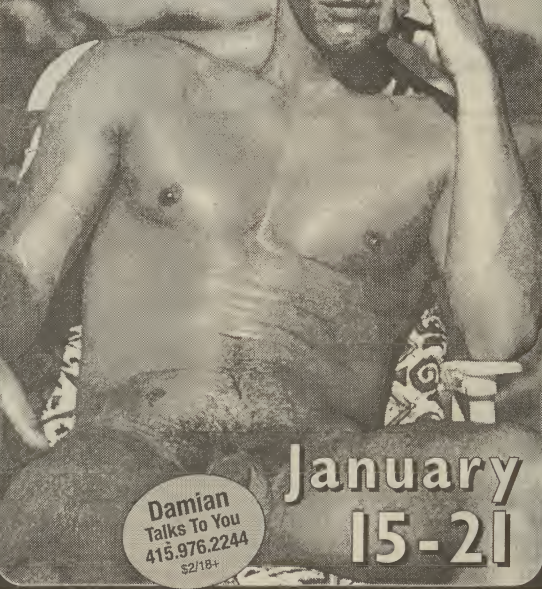
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Damian Ford

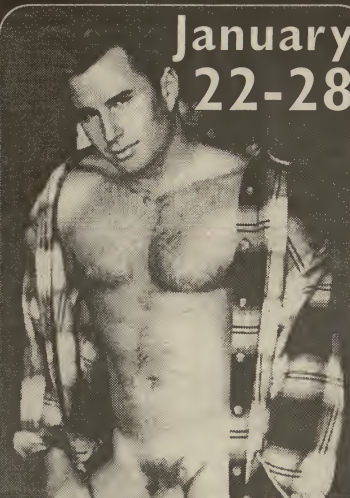


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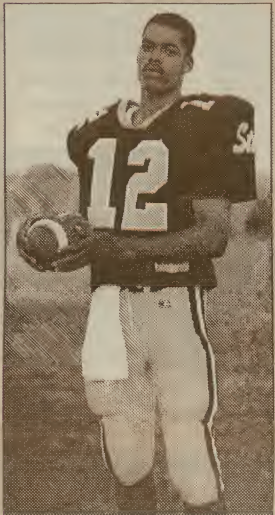
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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



Michael Hinton, Nottingham Northstars

Magazine rack

Imagine a media technology blessed with full-color pictures and blocks of text easy to scroll through, which takes no time at all to download, and has portability beyond the slimmest laptop. Such an "information delivery system" exists — it's called a magazine.

The winter issue of *DoubleTake* is a good example of an arts magazine realizing its full potential. Published by the Center for Documentary Studies at Duke University, *DoubleTake's* strong suit is its pages of contemporary documentary photography, which in this issue include Kent Klich's candid and disturbing studies of Mexico City's street children, Nancianne Vizzini's portraits of high school athletes in their uniforms, and Craig Coehn and Noah Hendler's pictures of child-headed households in Rwanda. There's a nice range of aesthetic experimentation and play; for example, Dona Ann McAdams' photos of Brooklyn Day, a mental health facility on Coney Island, are hand-colored by participants in her visual art workshop there. There is also what might be considered more traditional art photography, such as Peter Brown's landscapes of the Great Plains, and S.J. Staniski's typology of crèches built by Christian children in Burkina Faso.

Add to the mix poetry by Rafael Campo and Rita Dove, among others; reviews by John Berger and Susan Faludi; and a cartoon drawn by Flannery O'Connor in her schooldays at the Georgia State College for Women. The drawing, which appeared in the student newspaper, *The Colonnade*, shows a blasé middle-aged couple scornfully characterizing their daughter's awakening political consciousness: "She says we're on the threshold of social revolution." ▼

DoubleTake is available through Winter 1998 at better newsstands, on the Web at <http://www.duke.edu/doubletake>, or by order: call (800) 964-8301.

Fig

Alchemy

A new multimedia work by brothers Lyle Ashton Harris and Thomas Allen Harris. Reception today, 6pm. Thru 3/14. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Atalanta

Samuel Topiary presents pieces of her new multidisciplinary dance-play. \$5-10. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center for Perf. Arts, 1519 Mission. 554-0402.

Club nZinga

Global dance party, DJ Jose Ruiz. \$5. 9pm-2am. El Rio, 3158 Mission. 282-3325.

Dirty Little Showtunes!

Tom Orr's comedy musical revue: Broadway standards turned naughty. Thru 2/1, call for times, prices. Tonight at 8pm. New Conservatory Theater, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

En Drag

Female impersonators revue, hosted by Sexilya Luvseat. \$10. 9, 10&11:30pm. Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

James D. Phelan Art Award

In Photography, exhibition by winners David Berg, Kim Brown, Erin O'Neill. Reception today, 5:30pm. Tues.-Sat. thru 2/28. San Francisco Camerawork, 115 Natoma. 764-1001.

Late Night Live

Comedy talk show; hosts David Mills, Bridget Schwartz. Tonight: Planet Out drag psychics Tara, Crystal; comic Marilyn Pittman; Supe Gavin Newsum. \$8. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

MACT Video Night

Men of All Colors Together screen PBS's *Blacks and Jews*. \$2. 7pm. Call for location. 675-0201.

Perverts Put Out

Performance benefit for sex zine *Black Sheets*, features Carol Queen, Thomas Roche, Jill Nagle, Simon Sheppard, more. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm.

\$10-20. 848 Community Space, 848 Divisadero. 431-0171.

Say You Love Satan!

The Devil on Film, curated by Joel Shepard, Fridays thru 1/30. Tonight: Satan in Shorts, including Marilyn Manson's banned *Lunchbox*. \$6. 8pm. Yerba Buena Center for the Arts Screening Rm., 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

SF Games

Friendly card and board games open to all players, free. 7pm. Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission. 679-3678.

The Tragedy of Levi and Gap

A Brigid's Daisy multimedia production: tragic love affair in a woman's prison. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm thru 1/18. \$8. Dancers' Group Studio Theater, 3221 22nd St. 824-5044.

When Borders Migrate:

Reflections on the One Hundred and Fiftieth Anniversary of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, group exhibition curated by Rebecca Solnit. Reception tonight, 6pm, includes performance by Nao Bustamante and The Cruzin' Coyotes. Wed.-Sat. thru 3/7. SF Art Commission Gallery, 401 Van Ness. 554-6080.

Sat 17

Club Red

Dance party for women. \$5. 9pm. El Rio, 3158 Mission. 282-3325.

Ex-Lovers

Scott O'Hara's surreal musical romance, with music by Tom Phillips, opens. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 2/14. \$12-22. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Hollywood Cabaret

Cabaret performers, female impersonators, hosted by Miss Bette Davis. \$5. 10pm.

Kimo's, 1351 Polk. 885-4535.

Hope: A New Beginning

Napa Artists for People with AIDS holds art auction to benefit Napa Valley AIDS Project, other community groups. \$10. 2pm. Clos Pegase Winery, Calistoga. (707) 257-8686.

Rev. Peter J. Gomes

Black gay minister in Mem'l Church; Harvard: service, reception, book signing. 3pm. Grace Cathedral, California at Taylor. 522-0222.

Rhapsodies in Black:

Art of the Harlem Renaissance multimedia exhibition opens, thru 3/8. \$7 + \$2.50 surcharge. Palace of the Le-

gion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 34th Ave. & Clement. 863-3330.

San Francisco Magic

Magicians from the SF Conjurors Club perform. Saturdays at 8pm thru 2/28. \$13 + \$2 min'm. City Cabaret, 450 Geary. 215-1001.

Saturday Night Gay Comedy

Gay comics Liz Stevens, Sarah West, Dan Rothenberg. \$10. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Scott Williams

SF artist's large mural of the city in 2000, done by stencil technique. Thru 3/1. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Sun 18

Agathe

Four Years on Duty, Schubert's opera performed by Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble. \$10. 4pm. Community Music Ctr., 544 Capp. 647-6015.

Akuma No Te

(Touched by the Hand of the Devil) Films on the dark side of humanity, in conjunction with Masami Teraoka show. Sundays at 2pm thru Jan. \$7 museum admission. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Bernard Maybeck

Drawings by SF radical romantic architect, last day. \$6. Berkeley Art Museum, 2626 Bancroft. (510) 642-0808.

Dating 101

For Gay Men and Lesbians. 5-8pm. \$29 (Learning Annex members), \$44 (nonmembers), includes hors d'oeuvres. Broadway Studios, 435 Broadway. 788-5500.

Dio de los Reyes

Celebration music from Renaissance Spain and Latin America. \$12. 4pm. Mission Dolores Basilica, Dolores at 16th St. 431-4234.

Joe Dove

Reads "The Last Time I Saw Olsen Again" to \$40+ Club, free. 2pm. First Unitarian, 1187 Franklin. 552-1997.

Mecca

Ahimsa Timoteo Bodhrán, Yosefio V. Lewis read, followed by open mic. 1pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Mostra 97

Six Italian-American Photographers exhibit. Last day. \$2. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

Peter Max

Pop and expressionistic art, thru 2/10. Dyansen Gallery, 799 Beach. 928-0596.

Slick

Fetish Ball, Stormy Leather fashion show, performances and playspace. Appropriate dress. \$20. 9pm. 1015 Folsom. 536-9424.

Mon 19

Cave Paintings

Recent works by Amber Lynn Brookman. Thru 1/24. Picture, 524 3rd St. 543-4124.

Gay Comedy Open Mic

MC Danny Williams, up-and-coming comic talent, performers sign up by phone. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Police Pictures:

"The Photograph as Evidence," identifying the criminal, thru 1/20. \$7. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Tim A. Taylor

"Late 20th Century Cigarettes and Other Two-Dimensional Souvenirs," photographs. Thru 1/22. Lone Star Saloon, 1354 Harrison. 863-2009.

Wired Magazine:

"Selections from the Permanent Collection," printed and



Untitled photograph from the series *Gender and Bathrooms* by Erin O'Neill, part of the James D. Phelan Award in Photography at SF Camerawork. See Friday.

electronic versions of magazine layouts, thru 3/10. \$7. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Tues

Border

(Meta)morphosis: 1849 one-hundred fifty years later, group exhibition by artists originally from the Southwest, thru 2/7. Terrain, 165 Jessie. 543-0656.

Endangered Species:

"Artists Examine Environmental Issues" exhibit includes William T. Wiley, Tom Marioni, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 1/31. Jernigan Wicker Fine Arts, 161 Natoma. 512-0335.

Gross Indecency:

"The Three Trials of Oscar Wilde," Moisés Kaufman's play. Tues.-Sun. thru 2/15, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$25-39. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

The Hospital: Five Confessions

New installation by Russian artist Ilya Kabakov, thru 1/31. Capp Street Project, 525 2nd St. 495-7101.

Hunter Reynolds

Display of Memorial Dress for drag persona Patina du Prey. Also: Rodney O'Neal Austin's *Now Entering Beaver Creek*, Ohio; nine artists in *To Be Real*. \$5. Center for the Arts, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

It's All True!

Film and video series challenging idea of reality. Tues.-Sun. thru 3/1. Museum admission \$5. Center for the Arts Screening Room, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

L'Chaim!

"A Kiddush Cup Invitation," ritual drinking cups in many media, thru 2/8. \$5. Jewish Museum/SF, 121 Steuart. 543-8880.

Philharmonia Baroque

Orchestra Ensembles perform lunchtime concerts, free. Tues. at noon thru 1/27. Giannini Auditorium, Bank of America, 555 California. 495-7445.

Picasso & Villers:

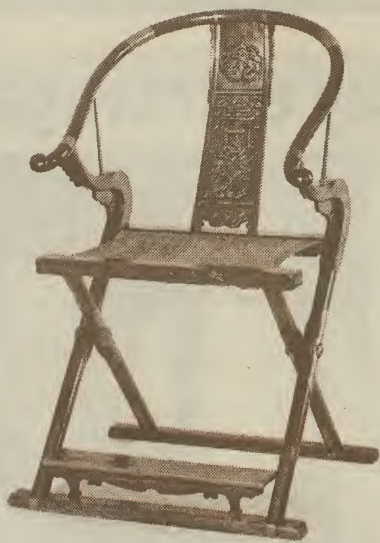
"The Diurnes Portfolio," exhibit of collaboration: photographs & paper cut-outs. Thru 3/8. \$5. Ansel Adams Ctr., 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Sarah Weddington

Attorney who argued *Roe v. Wade* is keynote speaker for Planned Parenthood luncheon marking 25th anniversary of landmark case. \$75. Noon. Sheraton Palace, 2 New Montgomery. 202-7383.

Sol Lewitt

Wall drawings and photographs by pioneering Conceptualist, thru 2/28. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.



Folding horseshoe-back armchair from the late Ming dynasty, part of *Essence of Style: Chinese Furniture of the Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasties* at the Asian Art Museum. See Wednesday.

Wed

Anthony

Installation by Harrell Fletcher & Jon Rubin: life of Art Institute student Anthony Powers, thru 1/25. Project Space, SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 771-7020.

Beach Blanket Babylon

Musical revue extravaganza. Call for times, ticket prices. Club Fugazi, 678 Beach Blanket Babylon (formerly Green St.). 421-4222.

Biohazard

116th Annual Exhibition examines technological constructions, biological breakdowns. Thru 1/25. Walter/Bean Gallery, SFAI, 800 Chestnut. 749-4588.

Essence of Style:

Chinese Furniture of the Late Ming and Early Qing Dynasties exhibit opens, thru 9/6. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

Five Points of View

Contemporary basket artists, thru 3/15. SF Craft & Folk Art Museum, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 775-0991.

Gino Severini:

"Works on Paper from 1922 to 1965" and "A Futurist Footnote" exhibitions open, reception tonight, 5:30pm. Wed.-Sun. thru 3/22. \$2. Museo ItaloAmericano, Bldg. C, Fort Mason. 673-2200.

How I Learned To Drive

Berkeley Rep Theatre presents Paula Vogel's off-

Broadway hit. Thru 2/27, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$34.50-45. Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison. (510) 845-4700.

Ikat:

"Splendid Silks from Central Asia," exhibit thru 3/1. \$7. de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

Insurrection:

Holding History
A.C.T. presents Robert O'Hara's riff on history, slavery, and sexual identity opens. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm; Wed., Sat. & Sun. at 2pm thru 2/8. \$14-51. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Menopausal Gentleman

Peggy Shaw as a woman who passes for male, going thru menopause. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 1/24. \$12-14. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Masami Teraoka

Paintings that combine pop art and Japanese woodblock prints, addressing AIDS, sexuality, cultural identity. Wed.-Sun. thru 1/25. \$7. Asian Art Museum, Golden Gate Park. 379-8801.

New Tendencies in Spanish Art

Contemporary Spanish artists, thru 2/7. Southern Exposure, 401 Alabama. 863-2141.

Pacific Rim Sculptors

Group show includes Tim Jag, Mary King, Ann Weber, thru 1/30. SFMOMA Rental Gallery, Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 441-4777.

Thurs

Bio-Experiments:

"Unnatural Specimens" by Alan Rath, "Natural Specimens" by Rob Craigie, thru 2/7. Haines Gallery, 49 Geary. 397-8114.

Black Horse Mountain

Works by Gay Outlaw, thru 2/28. Refusal, 20 Hawthorne. 546-0158.

Come In From the Rain

David Mauriello's erotic drama: a bank clerk and a buff call boy. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/7, call for Sun. matinees. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Death of a Salesman

Arthur Miller's Pulitzer Prize-winning play. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm., Sun. at 7pm thru 2/8. 118. Actors Theatre of SF, 533 Sutter. 296-9179.

Happy Anniversary

Lou Reda's play: struggles of a gay relationship. Thurs.-Sat. at 8:30pm, Sun. at 7:30pm thru 1/25. Call for ticket price. Studio at Theatre Rhino, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Jock Sturges

New photographs, the innocence of children. Tues.-Sat. thru 2/21. (Lecture: 2/11, 7:30pm, SF Camerawork.) Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

John Altoon

A critical survey retrospective, thru 1/31. Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 250 Sutter. 392-5532.

The Joke

Comic Maureen Brownsey in solo multimedia work. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 1/31. \$10. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Mackay Alston

Filmmaker of acclaimed *Family Name* speaks on making documentaries. Pre-registration required. 6:30pm. Parc 55 Hotel, 55 Cyril Magnin. 788-5500.

Shear Madness

Comedy whodunit set in unisex salon. Tues.-Sun. Call for times, prices. Mason Street Theatre, 340 Mason. 982-5463.

Under 24 Performance Fest

2nd annual selection of short solo works by theatre artists under 24. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 2/7. \$10. Bindlestuff Studio, 185 6th St. 974-1167.

Zoe Lewis and her Rubber Band

Multi-instrumentalist, vaudeville and storyteller. \$7. 10pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

This Week's Dinner Specials



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Guitar twanging, ivory ticking, penny whistling and harmonica bending with Zoe Lewis and her Rubber Band at Josie's. See Thursday.

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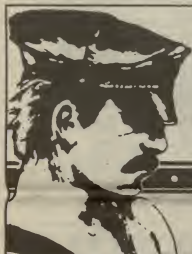
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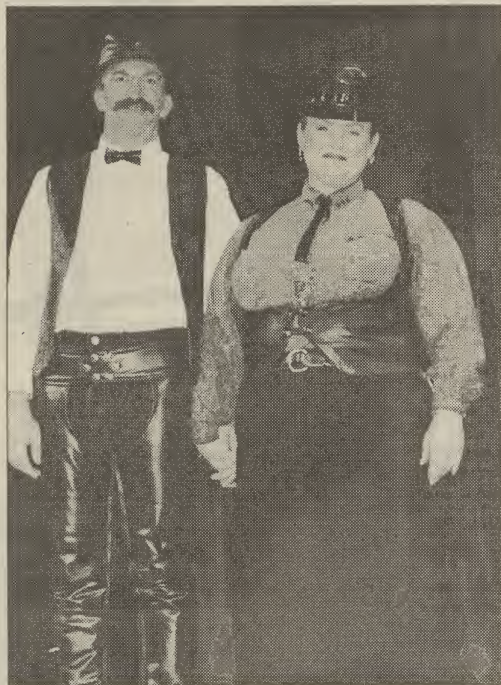
Doug Johnson and Sharon Kleinman bid adieu to their title year as Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather last Saturday night, Jan. 10, at the Gaslighter Theatre in Campbell with a stirring farewell skit that had most of the audience on the verge of tears. Their speeches were anything but loquacious or saccharine. Rather, they thanked everyone that needed to be thanked and gave accolades to each other before pantomiming "So long, farewell" from *The Sound of Music*. It brought the house down!

There was only one contestant for the Mr. title (Bill Raby) and only one for the Ms. title (Zan Blaum), but judges (International Ms. Leather Genelle Moore, Mr. Northern California Drummer John Brown, former Ms. SF Leather Diana Hardick, Frank Little-Kingpierce and head judge International Drummer Boy Dan Hughes) were obliged to conduct pre-judging interviews and score on speech, physique, a fantasy and overall general leather appearance, anyway. It wasn't a piece of cake!

South Bay leather people are way above average when it comes to creating and performing fantasies, and last Saturday's efforts ran true to form. There was a super opening fantasy, and the contestants' endeavors were top-notch as well.

Mr. Gay SF T.J. Istvan is getting better and better as a stand-up comic. In his two sets for this particular audience, his recounting of coming out, his initiation into on-line interaction and his tales of being a bartender at Daddy's in the Disastro were much appreciated. T.J. left them howling.

Since the theme of the evening was "Top Secret-Undercover," everyone involved had an operative "code" name. Emcees Miranda von Stockhausen ("Natasha") and Lenny Broberg ("Boris") had a field day with each other (and some hecklers in the audience) with their "Can You Top This?" routine. It's hard to say who was the "straight man" in this scenario, but their antics had the audience in stitches throughout the evening. Notables in the audience were introduced, including Mr. SF Leather-elect Barry Rogers, Ms.



1998 Mr. & Ms. Santa Clara County Leather Billy Raby (left) and Zan Blaum were sashed Saturday night, Jan. 10.

Golden Gate Leather Erin Kelley, Leather Daddy XV Patrick Batt, Mr. Capital City Leather (Sacramento) L. Derek Young, and Mr. January André English (on the 1998 Bare Chest Calendar).

When all was said and done, operative "Dr. No" (Sash Widow Steve Crane), the tally master, delivered the scores to the stage. Sharon and Doug were then summoned to perform their last "official" act. Apparently, the judges felt the candidates

were deserving because shortly after 2300, Bill Raby and Zan Blaum were medaled and sashed Mr. and Ms. Santa Clara County Leather 1998, respectively. Bill will compete at International Mr. Leather, and Zan will be an International Ms. Leather candidate. It was a fun night - and another triumph in the South Bay!

While all this was going on, the San Francisco GDI's were hosting a party at the Eagle for their 24th anniversary, with the usual suspects in the club scene and their

adherents in attendance. This group is one of the oldest fraternal organizations in the Bay Area, and I'm happy to report that a nice crowd was on hand to help them celebrate.

Cyberspace fun

If you own a computer, you can participate in a unique fundraiser. It's called "Meet Your Match" and takes place at the Eagle beer bust on Saturday, Jan. 24, 2000-2300, \$6. Single or married - it makes no difference. You only have to fill out the questionnaire that will appear when you click on this website: www.sirius.com/~boydavid/preview2.html. It's free, and all efforts possible will be made to match you up with one of the already 100 or so people who have signed on. There'll be prizes for the "best match," raffles for quality software, accessories, etc. All profits go to benefit Plus Seminars, an important AIDS support group. Sign on today!

New Centaurs

Next Saturday, Jan. 17, after a


Bazaar


Leather VIPs at the Santa Clara County Leather event (left to right): Barry Rogers, John Brown, Genelle Moore and Patrick Batt.

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Jan. 15

Constantines MC beer bust, 2100-2400, \$7, at Daddy's. Benefits the GodFather Service Fund and Rita Rockett brunches.

Weekend, Jan. 16-19

Leather action in Washington, D.C., with the Centaur MC Leather Weekend and naming Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather.

In Portland, Ore., in *Uniform Magazine's* Uniform Weekend. If you haven't booked reservations at hotels and registered for events, you might be out of luck!

Saturday, Jan. 17

The San Diego-based Water Boys host a beer bust at the Eagle for \$5 from 1500 to 1900. Liquidy "mellow yellow" party afterward (\$10) at a location that will be announced at the beer bust. Click on www.waterboys.com if necessary.

Bears of SF beer bust at the Lone Star from 1500 to 1900 for only \$6. Funds scholarships to International Bear Rendezvous next month!

Sunday, Jan. 18

San Franciscans beer bust at the Eagle, 1500-1800, \$8, with food, shenanigans - and hopefully good weather.

Tuesday, Jan. 20

Lou Duff's hands-on rope class with a workshop at Kairos, 2128 15th Street, 1830-2200. Call 550-0122 for cost and details.

Wednesday, Jan. 21

Leathermen's Discussion Group meets at 1930 at a South of Market location. Leather wear encouraged. Topic: *The Leather Closet: Reconciling Leathersex With a Vanilla World*. Call 626-3747 for details.

Underwear Buddies cavort at 933 Harrison. Doors open 2030-2300. Mandatory clothes check. No skidmarks! Call 863-HEAD for more information.

Thursday, Jan. 22

First Bare Chest Calendar contest of the year! Choosing Mr. January 1999 at 2200 at the Powerhouse. Win \$100, fame, adulation and an easy/fun way to help out! Throw those shoulders back, guys, and stand up straight! "I must, I must, I must increase my bust!"

Friday, Jan. 23

Fetish Dance at the Turf Club, with a \$5 tab if you're in fetish wear. Otherwise, it's \$7 for the beer bust by Den Calkins.

Saturday, Jan. 24

"Meet Your Match" beer bust at the Eagle from 2000 to 2300. See column above for a unique experience if you have a computer!

Sunday, Jan. 25

It's Super Bowl Day; the Green Bay Packers (yawn) face off against the Denver Broncos (double yawn). Watch the game at the Eagle on five TV screens. Thrill to the \$8 beer bust with food (chili, cornbread, etc.). Benefits Men of All Colors Together.

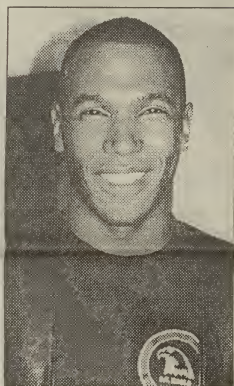
thousand leather people have gathered in Washington, D.C., for the Centaur MC Leather Weekend, the 1998 officers of that august organization will be installed in an elaborate ceremony, with approximately 100 clubs onstage displaying their colors. At their annual election last Sunday, Jan. 11, Centaur members cast their votes, with the results as follows: (re-elected) president, John Peter Halford; vice president, Steve Kenny; treasurer, Edwin Smith; recording secretary, Bob Costello; corresponding secretary, Chris Brush; tribune, Ken Huff; road captain, Glen Mlaker; and centurion, Billy Collison. Congratulations!

It's the cheese

The 49ers ended their season last Sunday by losing (23-10) to the cheeseheads (Green Bay Packers) at Candlestick/3Com/Mud Bowl, leaving lots of fans crestfall-

en. Andy Rose was flying to Pittsburgh to visit family before Mid-Atlantic Leather in D.C., and upon arrival, he hit the local gay sports bar (The Holiday) with his Terrible Towel and Steelers cap. However, his disappointment at the Steelers' loss was only compounded when the 49ers made a valiant but futile effort to make it to the Super Bowl via the NFC Championship game.

We really can't complain about our team. There were a lot of thrilling moments on the way to the playoffs, and the 49ers may be down, but they're definitely not out! Plus next year, Jerry Rice will be back. Between now and Jan. 25, we'll endure all the hoopla, interviews, predictions, point spreads, etc. that accompany America's premier sporting event. I want to thank all of you who called me in the waning moments of the game to console me. I needed it! ▼



Mr. Capital City Leather (Sacramento) L. Derek Young was among the crowd at the Santa Clara County Leather event last weekend.

Opera

◀ page 44

breakfast. Yet, for all her histrionics, Lukacs was a curiously passionless Tosca, remaining outside the role, rather than conveying the gripping intensity and genuine emotion the character requires. By the last act, her singing was painfully flat.

The middle of Malagnini's voice has an attractive quality. But when a phrase goes into the top of his voice it inevitably sounds thin and whiny, unless he breaks the musical line to whack the top notes full force. In that case, as in Act II's "Vittoria," Malagnini does a credible job without being truly heroic. Sergei Leiferkus mined Scarpia's entrance for every bit of its enormous dramatic impact. He could easily be heard over the other 7,000 people on stage during the "Te Deum" at the end of Act I. But during Act II, my mind kept wandering. When 45 minutes of on-stage torture, attempted rape, and murder cannot hold their own against thoughts of "Do I have enough milk for breakfast tomorrow?" something is wrong.

Perhaps it was the brutal slam-bam-thank-you-nia'am conducting of Maurizio Barbacini in his U.S. opera debut that ultimately made this *Tosca* so dull. It is said

that Herbert von Karajan once remarked that every conductor needs to lead at least one performance of *Tosca* each year to relieve sexual frustrations. But Karajan, unlike Barbacini, also understood that even a little bit of finesse, caressing, and playfulness tremendously enhance the total

experience. Otherwise the whole thing is just a bore. ▼

Performances of *Figaro* continue through January 17; *Tosca* continues through January 18. For further info and tickets call (415) 864-3330.

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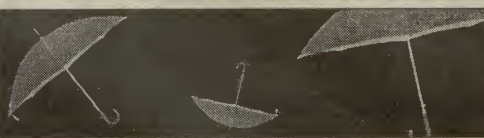
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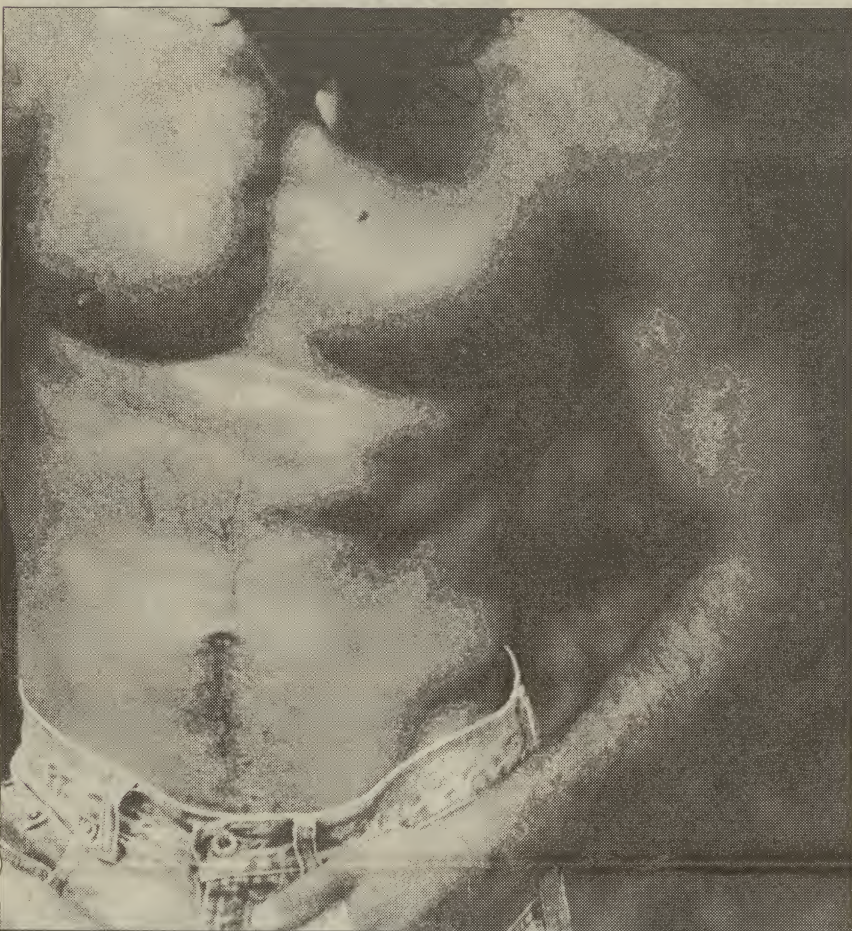


photo/Vince Gabrielly 415-646-0883

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PARTING GLANCES

38AX Express 12/18 about 5:30
You sat at the back of the bus. You moustache and receding hairline. Yes, I looked. Yes, I waved. Yes, I'm interested. ☎ 9501

Sweet Inspirations 12/22 @ 3PM
Me: brown hair, blue eyes wearing blue and sitting with an older friend. You: brown hair, brown eyes in a dark green sweater with a stripe sitting with 2 women. Coffee? ☎ 9502

EmergoRound Commuter
Same BART trains every day, sneaking peeks at you while we're both reading. You're cute. Both shy, tired of an un/talking. Dinner? Drinks at Martini's? ☎ 9503

Wed. 12-17 Walgreen's-Montgomery St.
You: Very cute dk. haired boy with beautiful eyes that met mine. Me: Tall, sleepy guy buying wrapping paper. Definite heart acceleration. Who are you? ☎ 9504

Black Land Rover-Market St.
U: BM w/ great smile returning video. Me: GWM w/ friend. Stayed to say hello, but didn't ask you to dinner as planned. Interested? ☎ 9506

Michael Eros Fri Dec 12
Sitting by kitchen, you with 2 friends, me with one. We flirted all through dinner. You have beautiful smile. Would love to meet for dinner and dessert. ☎ 9601

Chows Restaurant Sun. 12/21
Sitting by kitchen, you with 2 friends, me with one. We flirted all through dinner. You have beautiful smile. Would love to meet for dinner and dessert. ☎ 9601

Andrew 12/28
I came back to Eagle and you were gone, would love to continue where we left off-Michael. ☎ 9713

Walgreens @ 16th & Mission
Friday, Dec. 26. You were picking up an Rx. I said "hi" but was too shy to say more. I'd like to meet you. ☎ 9709

Sat 12/27 on 27Bryant bus 3pm
at Post and Leavenworth. Me: dark hair, moustache, glasses, black leather jacket, tan Levi. You: blue eyes, blond hair, clean shaven b. Levi sitting in back of bus. I sat behind you. We smiled. Please call. ☎ 9603

Embarcadero 1 elevator 12/28
Brief eye contact between garage and movies. I'm short, glasses, stache, red sweatshirt. Your shirt pushed up to show your furry arms. Not first time I've noticed you. ☎ 9604

Steam Works 12/29/98
Afternoon. James, you cute, hunky black man, on extended lunch, you came to my room. Me bearded white guy, you brought me to the edge. Again, when there is more time? ☎ 9701

Tues. morn 12/16 blond beard
Walking on Collingwood, we smiled and turned. Me to my car, you to Castro. I drove past and yelled Hi, you smiled and commented on me stopping traffic. Let's meet. ☎ 9505

Sharon McNight 12/31 10:00shw
You fondled my back and rubbed your foot against mine. I caressed your leg. We've noticed each other before. I would love to meet you. Please call. ☎ 9702

Ronnell the dancer
I lost contact with you when I went overseas. Sol Y Luna should ring a bell. ☎ 9704

Walgreens @ 16th & Mission
Friday, Dec. 26. You were picking up an Rx. I said "hi" but was too shy to say more. I'd like to meet you. ☎ 9709

Hot fuck at Mack 12/27
About 2:00 at night. You: muscular black dude, huge dick. Me: shaved head white boy. You pounded my ass up against the wall in the corner. I want more. ☎ 9705

Bank of America Castro @ 18th
12/29/98 afternoon. Me: black jacket, goatee, at teller window with friend. You: nice smile at another teller. Me near inside ATM as you leave. We smiled. Care to talk? ☎ 9706

Tall Asian man with Rav4 1/4
Castro-couldn't stop smiling at each other Sunday 2nd/45. You were with someone. Me: tall, blond, black jacket, blue shirt with 3 friends. We've done this before. Time to meet. ☎ 9703

ISO: Drag queen Kitty Glamour
Met you NYE @ Castro Station. You are the hottest babe around. You'll remember me by the kisses. You have my number. Please call. You're hot! ☎ 9707

Dec 21 PM U called me ISO Tony
You have a great voice! Sorry I couldn't talk. People in the house. Would love to talk to you-meet you-lick your boots!! Call ☎ 9708

12/29 7PM I validated your parking.
You just saw Wings of the Dove. We spoke briefly outside Embarcadero Ctr cinema. I'm Asian, sorry did not stay long to talk with you. ☎ 9710

In this our life
Roxie, Sunday December 28. We made eye contact and smiled. I hope that wave didn't mean goodbye. Please call. ☎ 9716

Wed/12/31 9PM BofA ATM 18th St.
I & Castro. We talked about the New York musical Sideshow, Damn Yankees and Chita Rivera. I enjoyed our conversation and would like to continue where we left off over coffee. ☎ 9711

Eureka St-roommate-Sun 12/28
You: very cute shirtless roommate. Me: guest. We passed at teh bathroom and again when I was leaving. Want to get together...how about it? ☎ 9712

Cutie in red jacket and blue cap
leaving PleasureDome 12/29. I wore a Cleveland Indians shirt. We glanced and danced together but didn't talk. Would like to do both even more. You're a good dancer. ☎ 9714

Your uninhibited gaze Fri Cafe
Wanted my attention; paces away. Conscious ego wouldn't chance me to muster "hello" curious of you. Coateched leather jacketed with friend? Me, dancing group tank-L. Permit me dinner with you... ☎ 9602

Castro censorship at MCC
I sat behind you near the back. You were with friends. We kept watching each other, but I left early, after you spoke. ☎ 9715

Mystery man at SFGMCXmas
show at Castro theatre. You gave me bouquet of beautiful roses then disappeared. Didn't get the chance to say thank you. Hope you're out there somewhere. Happy New Year. ☎ 9717

Wally at Universe/Fag Fridays
Seen you many times. Want to talk to you, but I'm always too shy or messy. Can we talk? Do dinner? Me: cap guy. ☎ 9718

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

HIV+ Bk 5'10 165#
I am brown skin slim build with a decent look. I am attracted to older guys who have lean well-proportioned trim and fit bodies. No bear types. ☎ 9611

Brand New Year-Same ol' me
Optimistic, good-natured, healthy poz. Romantic, creative, versatile, GWM, 45, 6', 185#, gym, balding/buzz, NS. ISO similar for dating and poss. LTR. Take a chance. It could be love. ☎ 9508

BIWM seeks LTR
Professional BIWM seeks tall & husky M with a big heart. I'm 47, 6', 180. Curly brn hair, moustache. Not into gay scene or games. Serious and over 40 only. ☎ 9509

Romantic Asian-Filipino
sought by vintage Italian male for friendship, romantic interludes, cuddling, kissing, caressing, leading to that ultimate moment of truth. Travel companion to Miami Beach, Florida, 1998. Accommodations provided. ☎ 9510

Girl seeks guy
Pre-op TS, 38, STD-, HIV-, seeks straight type relationship with gentleman whom is caring and loving. Romantic, LTR minded. ☎ 9511

Upscale suck buddy wanted
Independent tall Southern GWM professional, 50, HIV-, cut, would like to meet another financially secure professional, HIV-, cut, for social outings, din-din, oral tastings and friendship. ☎ 9512

Mature WM seeks same for friend
or LTR, I'm 60, 6'2, 200#, easy going, enjoy quiet dinner with special person, walks on beach, affectionate NS. Love making love, honest and sincere. ☎ 9513

Seeking Asians
GWM, 40, prof., 5'6, 140#, live in SF, enjoy sports, trips to Reno and quiet times. In search of Asians under 35yrs who are interested in friendship and more. ☎ 9514

Looking for friends
Asian male, 38, 140#, 5'7 1/2". om good shape, smooth/dark, new to the City. Like movies, theatre, dining. Seeks WM with same interest for friends and date. ☎ 9515

I'm the gay, white Missy Elliott
GWM, 29, 6'1, 250, brn/hzl, goatee-bear-type. Gdiking, HIV-, intell., well-adjusted, slightly misanthropic Judge Judy fan skin dates. No meanies/queeries/scummies/dummies. ☎ 9516

Very tall romantic sought
Goodlooking, romantic believer-in love seeks very tall (6'3" +) partner for eternity. Me: 36, 6'11", 185#, kind, funny, + hopeful for true love. I know you're out there. Please call. ☎ 9517

Slim gdiking hip retired guy
Moustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in good shape, versatile, HIV-, seeks similar slim, 50+, facial hair guy. Short, small dick OK. Smoke OK. Safe only! ☎ 9518

Let's make it happen
GBM, 37, 6'3", 190#, don't look my age, act, or taste like 37 either. Looking for versatile uninhibited WM, 30-40. Take a chance. ☎ 9519

Pacific Islanders young & slim
New friends sought by romantic WM, 54 (looks 40's) 5'11, 170, HIV-, NS, brown hair/eyes, handsome, clean shaven city boy, likes cats, scuba, travel, photography, monogamous LTR possible. ☎ 9605

New to East Bay
GBM 38, 6', 195, hairy bottom looking for an easy going top to show me around town and have fun at the same time. ☎ 9606

Looking for boyfriend
6', 195, 28, bi-racial W/B, handsome, HIV+, healthy, enjoy movies, music, eating out, financially stable hard working, looking for 25-37, stable affectionate honest, versatile, no drugs, Latinos -, but all are welcome. ☎ 9607

Perfect touch
WM, good-looking, brn/grn, 6'1, 185, thirtysomething, Ph.D., clean-cut, professional, warm, honest, enthusiastic, eclectic interests, self-aware, genuine, no game playing. I give great massage. ☎ 9608

Seek Bruce Willis-type
GWM seeks tall, burly, balding businessman 35-45. Enjoys dinners out, disco dancing, and quiet nights at home with dogs. Me: 6'3", 185, 36yo professional with sharp sense of humor. ☎ 9609

Handsome Bear Now Available
30yo seeks young (24-32), slim to medium guy for relationship. You're hippish, easy-going, adventuresome, spontaneous and well-grounded. Not a clone. You turn heads. Call. Let's meet. ☎ 9610

Shy man seeks companionship
SF GWM, 57, 5'10, 160, NS. Very shy so meeting men is difficult for me. Classical piano training. Enjoy hiking, computers, seeking someone similar or who enjoys a quiet gay man. Meet over coffee. ☎ 9612

HIV+ Hispanic seeks BM
GWM, 27yrs, HIV+, bottom, 5'10, 155#, seeks black mate, HIV+, top, in SF. ☎ 9733

Shall we dance?
or should we just have dinner? AM, 31, 5'5, looking for a funny guy under 36 (under 5'9 a plus) to have fun with. ☎ 9614

Handsome GWM 36 blond 6' 185
Explore sunny Sonoma county with intelligent, fit, sexy, romantic, masculine professional. Successful and responsible. Seeking GAM 25-40, sexy, romantic, ND, NS, clean-cut, enjoy the beach/pool. ☎ 9615

Not looking for sex
If you enjoy cuddling, candlelight dinners, movies, running on the beach, hiking, making love, and you are healthy, in shape, optimistic, life loving, humorous, active, call me. I'm 42, 175#, 5'9, balding/buzz cut, goatee, sideburns, goodlooking, hairy, uncut. ☎ 9616

Sonoma county Lil guy Skg LTR
Handsome, spiritual, contry lilguy, youthful 40's, goatee, seeks tall, affectionate, emotionally available HIV- fellow, 40-50 for dating, LTR. I'm optimistic, playful, musical, earthy, hot, NS/ND. ☎ 9617

GAM in SF seeks other GAMs for
friendship, fun or relationship. I'm 29, 5'5, 110#, smooth. ☎ 9618

Best friend seeks same
(not having much trouble getting laid-would like to meet someone though) Would like to meet someone to share affection and intimacy with. I'm 45, HIV+, top looking for a stocky bottom who wants to have a best friend. ☎ 9719

Agressive Asian and Black men
GWM, 45, 165#, desires Asian and black men who are dominant in bed. I am submissive and can make love for hours. ☎ 9720

Romantic Latino seeks GWM
for LTR. Me: honest, mature, funny, down to earth, versatile, 37, 5'10, 150#, b/bk/bk, HIV+, healthy, affectionate. Enjoy movies, music, dinners, gym. You: proportionate 30-40, NS, ND. ☎ 9721

GM30sSeekingGWM45s-60s
for friend to LTR. Clean, HIV-, NS/D; healthy, a small build, slender a plus. ☎ 9722

Friendship first, then...
Me: 30, blond, introspective, intuitive, romantic, intelligent, compassionate, earthy. You: around 26-36, sincere, focused, relationship-oriented. Pluses: Latino or Asian, no drugs, leather-oriented. ☎ 9723

Want a friend or mate in 98?
This babe doesn't come w/ diaper and sash; but if your New Year's resolution is to find someone with compassion, intelligence and a humorous, youthful outlook on life. Call me! ☎ 9724

East Bay GWM seeks GBM for
LTR. Me: 5'11", 185#, 8" cut, professional, sensitive, romantic, great kisser, open to diverse possibilities. You: GBM, 5'9" or less, caring, sincere, loving, professional, enjoys life in/out of bed. ☎ 9725

Seeking male signifiers
Smooth Poz muscle jock looking for a stocky poz muscle bear. I'm 5'5, 145, tattooed, muscled versatile top, needing tough hairy bottoms. For workouts in the South Bay. ☎ 9726

Mind, body, soul
GWM, 30yo, 5'8, 155#, brn/bm, muscular, medium hairy chest, Ph.D., shy, affectionate, spiritual, enjoys weightlifting, hiking, movies, cuddling. ISO fit, hairy chested WM to 37yo with similar interests, NS, ND, HIV-. ☎ 9727

Seeking someone
sincere, who knows how to have a relationship. Me: 24yr, Asian, 5'10, 150#, sincere, caring, and healthy love to see moves. Please call me. ☎ 9728

GIM, Scorpio seeks fun
Seeking Black or Latino guys who are ready for romance, passion, and a great massage. I'm a 30yo Italian-American, 5'4, 145#, masculine-bottom, sexy eyes. ☎ 9729

Cuddle in heaven
30yr old Filipino cute hard body, 5'6, 137#, HIV-, smooth ISO GWM HIV-, NS, 18-35, only cute and defined hard body for quality satisfying time. ☎ 9730

Let's do it
I am a butch looking for a daddy bear. Me: 6'1, brn, blue, 255. I need a men! ☎ 9731

Seeking HIV buddy
Who looks healthy and fit with weight and height in proportion. A fairly firm body would be the icing on the cake. Me: blk, 5'10, 170#, slim build decent look. No bear types. ☎ 9732

Beefy and brawny men
under 40 and over 170# sought by muscular Asian 34, 5'9, 174#, for fun/friendship, NS/ND. ☎ 9735

Bodybuilder
Another bodybuilder for the sharing of mutual interests and strong man to man action. ☎ 9749

Sex slave wanted
GWM, 54, 5'7, 140, masculine, NS, HIV-, safe. You: HIV-, totally obedient, under 40, willing to give over control, B/D, 5/M. My agenda, my way. Will train. ☎ 9736

A class act
Attractive, intelligent, rich (but very together) GWM-40's, 5'8, 177, br/gn-seeks very cute and classy GWM/GLM under 30 for fun/friendship/hot sex? Have a great sense of humor and many interests: indoors and out. You should too. ☎ 9737

New Year, old hope
Attractive, intelligent, GAM, 31, 5'11", 135#, looking for GWM: 31-45 yrs. HIV-, honest, mature, not feminine, professional, normal looking and in shape. Let's head into LTR if it's a good match. ☎ 9738

New Year, old hope
Attractive, intelligent, GAM, 31, 5'11", 135#, looking for GWM: 31-45 yrs. HIV-, honest, mature, not feminine, professional, normal looking and in shape. Let's head into LTR if it's a good match. ☎ 9738

I want you!
Wanted: one GWM bottom 48-55 yrs who wants more than a one night sex/ing healing. Offered: one GWM top, late 40's, ISO ongoing bed partner or LTR. I'm affectionate, articulate and communicative. ☎ 9739

Hunky Handsome loving package
Quality GWM wants passionate relationship and possible LTR. I'm 6'2, 190#, 40s, very muscular, hot Italian, soulful, loyal, exclusive, sincere, intelligent, HIV, nonprogressor, professional, sexually charged from puppy to leather. Looking for similar, 30-40yr old GWM who wants to look me in the heart, die for my body and live for my soul. Prefer facial hair. Serious only ☎ 9740

Lonely college guys out there?
GWM couple 27 seek 3rd for LTR. US: 6'1, 170, brn/hazel and 6', 155, brn/gm, both NS D/D free. You: under 28, avg build, NS, D/D free. ☎ 9741

Attractive Latino
Goodlooking Latino, 32yo, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, like to go to movies, dinner, hiking, tennis, travel. Looking for GWM between 25-37yo for friendship or more. Just call. ☎ 9742

Let me be the one to hold you
Attractive, passionate, GWM, 6'1", 155, 43, firm body seeking attractive, romantic, GAM, 25-45, who possesses a sharp mind, kind heart, and a smooth, firm body. ☎ 9743

Passionate kisser seeks GAM
GWM, 26, 6', boyish good looks, nice slim body, seeks Asian male, 18-40, for hot intense get-togethers. Don't be shy. Call me. ☎ 9744

Pac idol/Latino wanted by
young slim, goodlooking, 5'11, blue, brown, versatile, mod. hairy, BIWM, nice guy wants to be indulged. No STD's, ancient, shorty's. Be secure, horny, versatile bottom. LTR maybe. ☎ 9745

Asian male seeking friends
GAM, 38, 140, 5'7/2" in good shape, smooth, dark, likes movies, theatre, dining. Seek WM 28-38 with same interests for friends and dating. ☎ 9746

Mendocino bottom
Healthy HIV+ GWM, 5'11, 147#, br/blue, goatee, slim, passive, romantic, loves outdoors. ISO tall GWM/GLM 25-35, honest and sincere, for friendship, dating, sex poss. LTR first time ad. ☎ 9747

Looking for romance
Goodlooking GWM, 40, 6' tall, 195# and HIV+ is looking for a romantic partner. I have short dark hair, mustache and smooth body. All nationalities between 30-40 can respond. NS ☎ 9748

Visualize a...
21yo, 165#, 6', GW/HM, dark features, light spirit. A casual Leo who appreciates progressiveness, nature and creativity. In shape prefer UB2. Seeks attractive young guy for enjoyment of one another. ☎ 9734

Latino bottom seeks top in E. Bay
GLM, 30, 5'10, 175#, handsome in very good shape ISO top, 30-40yrs. Shld be very masc. good looking and workout. Race unimportant. Hairy chest a plus. ☎ 9750

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Big dick ISO even bigger dick
Healthy, bronze, 5'11, 180# poppa with a true 8"X6" seeks kid with beer can sized tool. I'm bearded, have shaved head and gym-toned body. Call me. ☎ 9520

Why I'm such a good cocksucker
To make your dick bigger? No, to make the dick you happen to have shoot a bigger/better load. Experience this fundamental difference for yourself. Try me. ☎ 9536

Just shut up and ride
WM, 32, 5'10", 200#, blond-blue muscle hunk likes wild, versatile men-anytime. ☎ 9521

Sacramento-deep suck for 10"
(some say the best) I'm 6'3", 230, 37, attractive, NS. Hung thick and hard. Healthy light tan complexion. Friendly. Discreet. Not talented suck. Not into scene. Straight, bi, okay. ☎ 9522

Piss sensation
My mouth available. My tongue will lick your piss slit and slowly bring your balls and bladder to explosive release. Call now. Same day/night callback. ☎ 9523

Up my:
into having my manhole stretched open and slid into by your small to medium size hands. Long sessions of shared intimacy/versatile from slow and tender to piston punching. ☎ 9524

Hot guy w/tee ring sks barefoot
buddy. Masculine, tan, goodlooking East Bay GWM, 58, 140#, HIV-, craves reciprocal foot licking, smelling, caressing, massaging, naked body closeness, safe J/O fantasies. Light odor, toughened soles ok. Further friendship welcomed. ☎ 9525

Uncut cock wanted
Well-endowed uncut BM looking for other uncut tops/versatiles for oral fun at your place. BM, Hispanic, or other men of color a + but not required. ☎ 9526

New in town and alone in city
Attractive GWM, 38, 5'8", 175#, gm/bm, ms/tgt, healthy HIV+ bottom, nice smile, passionate, adventurous, gym-goer seeks hot top, <49, nice body for fun, friend, cycle daddy a+. ☎ 9527

Oral expert for hung males
BM, 6'1, 195#, cleanshaven, muscular, masculine. Will service guys 18-40 with 8" or more. Bi, straight, okay. ☎ 9528

Multi-load tops wanted
Call me. and fill a bottom up. ☎ 9529

Fresh, ringed, mushroomed meat
needs insate. milker 2 get 2 the root of a big problem. WM, 47, br/br, buzz stach got, hairy, 6', 160#, crusty joystickpr. 35+ sweaty hairy nuts deliver reg feedings 4 slo deep nonstop whimpering worship. ☎ 9530

Jewish guys!
I am looking for Jewish guys who are goodlooking and attractive for fun and good times. If you are hung a plus. ☎ 9531

Massage ecstasy
A free exhilarating seajual experience for masculine young guys with tight trim builds by straight-acting masculine Scandinavian WM 40. ☎ 9532

Smooth sexy blacks
Sexy GWM, 6', 190#, seeks smooth black men who like it hot and intense with a hot white body, mouth and cock. ☎ 9533

Slow sensual
massage by 54yr. slim fit HIV- guy for in-shape guys. Lie back naked and any of your body parts will get individual attention. All ages, races OK. ☎ 9534

Who needs big dicks?
The quality cocksucker (like me) uses his artistry to coax throat-ripping loads from even modest meat. You'll both appreciate the difference I bring to cocksucking. ☎ 9535

Leatherman Give n take
Very muscled part-time leather man, 6'2, 190#, 40yo, 46"C, 16", sexually wild, versatile, looking for butt play buddy and possible relationship with 25-40yo, also very muscled with preferred facial hair, who wants to connect emotionally and physically with another top notch man. Call: ☎ 9526

This tops for you
I'm a serious black top, 40, 170#, 6", 9". Seeks a hot, wet hole. You be black or Latino, masculine, lean, nasty. Then let's do it. ☎ 9537

Latin boys needed
Sacramento-area GWM wants young Latinos, 18-25, HIV-. Me-bottom boy. You-thin build, uncut, got top. 3-ways a +. ☎ 9538

Ride on my bushy mustache
And feel my long tongue up your hot butt. Me: 6', 165#, brn/blu, 38. You: hot & ready. ☎ 9619

Ball worship
My two egg-shaped balls are waiting for your hot mouth and tongue. me: attractive GWM, 46, 6'5, 250, football player's build. You: attract GWM 18-35, slim, smooth, moderate body-fat. ☎ 9620

I'm a muscular hairy latino
seeking a masculine, stocky, hung, versatile man for hot times. Facial and/or chest hair is a plus. I'm 33, 5'7, 160#, shaved head, beard, 7" thick and uncut. ☎ 9621

Sexy Italian seeks playmate
GWM, 41, 5'10, 190#, br (bald), br, hairy, GT, well hung, topshin in a LTR. Sks discreet, ahirly, GWM, 35-45, in SF. Also a LTR. ☎ 9622

Hot piece of ass wanted
Dominant, muscular, fuck stud, 38, 190#, 6'1, great chap! Seeks boys/men 25-45, thin to muscular, hard body required, who like to service dick and get fucked. Not S&M. ☎ 9623

Seeking a hung uncut top
I'm a masculine, caucasian, oral bottom, 32, 5'11, 170#, mustache, goatee, well endowed. Looking to service a hung, masculine, uncut man of any race. Facial or body hair a plus. ☎ 9624

Just too much for my ad
If your HIV- slim like safe sex no rushing or pain, I am WM 58 HIV-. Let's talk. Let me hear him, I'll tell you mine, then let's do it. ☎ 9625

Wanted: big hairy firm butt
Aggressive top, hung big needs well built WM, hairy with big firm butt to eat and fuck. ☎ 9627

Are you bing served?
Seasoned GWM seeks 45+ master chef to cook with. Prefer rare beef with hot chestnuts on a bed of thick angel's hair. Make my mouth water. ☎ 9628

Big arms and hands
I want to watch my boyfriend get spanked by a tall man with big hands to make his gym toned butt red. We are both good looking, inshape guys hung big. You be hung big and like to be serviced. ☎ 9629

Hung big
Hot 6'3, 37, 160# good looking all-American collegiate type w/ gym toned body. Hung big, versatile. Seeks goodlooking guys for fun. Couples, hung big a plus. ☎ 9630

Boysish bottom seeks WM top
Young looking, slender WM, 30, 5'9, 50, nice shapely boyish butt, beautiful puckered anus; submissive to a lean WM top, to 45 with nice crotch. Sex only. No pain/STDs. ☎ 9631

Hey dildo boys into phone sex
WM very masculine dominant top seeks a submissive bottom boy with a hungry hole, big dildos and a craving for heavy duty regular phone sex. ☎ 9632

Hung big?
If you're hung so large that it's hard to find someone who can take as much as you want to give, give this hot muscle man a call. ☎ 9633

All I want is to...
suck on your hot clean butt. Hot & horny stud, 44, 6', 190, goatee, rugged, wnts to suck on your ass for hours. ☎ 9634

Handsome hot and horny
Very sexy GWM 35, 5'9, 160, bl/bl, longs to meet hot, hung tops to pleasure. Ready for fun? ☎ 9635

Oral service given
front and rear. Have hot mouth. Watersports, uncuts A+. Body scents appreciated. ☎ 9751

Chubby men
LM, 40, 6', 155# ISO very chubby men who don't exercise and are comfortable with themselves who enjoy slow oral action. Facial hair a +. Not into gay lifestyle. ☎ 9752

Uncut ISO uncut
Cute, boyish, WM, 37, 5'7", 135, oral, bottom/versatile seeks safe sexual fun with other uncut men. Age, race, size unimportant. Foreskin a must. ☎ 9753

Seeking Smegma
Horny GWM seeks uncut GM with cheese polo for fun and fames, sensual delights, pleasures of the flesh, and root milking. I'm 51, 5'8, brn/blue, beard, HIV-. ☎ 9754

SF over 50 gumjog wntd eyes
45, WM, 5'10, 165#, HIV-, Md bld, br/br, musta, smoker, 7X51/2 cut cockrked meat kicks back for hungry milker (no teeth) on reg basis. Serious gum massagers only! Leave #. ☎ 9755

GWM seeks men of color
GWM, 5'10, 165, blonde, bottom, HIV+, seeks man of color for friendship, sex, possible LTR. Mutual respect desired. ☎ 9756

Great head in Sonoma County
by nice-looking, relaxed, healthy, generous, middle-aged guy for slender or medium-build guys, 18-35. Meet first in public, then your place or mine. No reciprocation expected. ☎ 9757

Black Irish seeks red
Dark, gd/kg Irish-Am whose hot mouth waters for those big white buns and that pink meat. 40, fit and fired up for a rethead. ☎ 9758

Wkday afternoon disert cock play
GWM, 49, 6', HIV-, 161#, smooth, endowed cockrked dick in LTR ISO Xtra pleasure/play-JO, oral, kissing, exploring hands and tongue. Discreet, sane, affectionate, regular guy. All cocks=excitement-U/C AA+ + ☎ 9759

Santa Rosa Sonoma dildo action
Attractive GWM ISO dildo buddies. Like dirty talk, mirrors, big toys, showing off hole. If you're top/versatile and like hot, nasty butt pounding action call now. SF also. ☎ 9760

Very cute African American
26, 5'6, 160 seek HIV- aggressive tops 23-34, single, gay only. Seek a regular sex buddy and friendship. No 1 nite stands. Be honest, reliable, intelligent, serious only! ☎ 9761

Bottoms bottomon/pigboy
Hot leather superbott ISO lean leather/bondage/W/S bottoms to orally serve, submit, obey and be humiliated by. SF Bay Area. Serious. ☎ 9763

Even after 44 long years
Every time I take off my pants I thank God I'm black. I need 3 Or 4 manly oral experts to keep me satisfied. All races welcome. Serious only. ☎ 9766

Dildo/FF top for my SJ playroom
Hot leather bear GWM 39, 6'3, 230#, versatile needs ongoing training, SJ or SF. Available Saturday night, Sunday, Mondays. Serious only. No flakes, no heavy drugs. ☎ 9767

I'd do a gorilla
If I knew he'd relax. You-furry. Me-38, br/bl, stache who will suck you as long as you'd like. ☎ 9768

Balls and deep cock sucker
Deep cock service from devoted worshiper. 46, 5'9, br/br, beard, stache. Repeat sessions for trim, hung, 30s-40s with a load to share. ☎ 9772

A1 Oral service-delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature, trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 9770

Big men and dildos
GBM, 5'11, 240#, big tits, hung, attractive, seeks big and heavy set men into mutual dildo pleasure. Only big fat men with big tits, belly and butt. ☎ 9771

Wanted: Great top from hot
bottoms. Eves. ☎ 9769

FETISHES

Need dom Asian tops
WM, 60, masc, 6'1", 215#, total bottom to be dom by younger Asian. 3-ways, gang bang, M/F couples use me for your sex slave. Bondage C/B/T, sorry no scat, watersports. ☎ 9539

Diapers?
Were you diapered at night past the age of seven and still need a daddy to accept this responsibility of keeping you dry in diapers and baby panties? Answer soon with a brief description of your bedwetting activities and punishment when you were young. Only true life situations welcomed. This strict daddy will baby you like you were before with the right amount of discipline as well. Only babies 35 or under need apply. ☎ 9540

Lick & suck my enormous nipples
Also tickle, tease, twist, twist and torture them. I'm 49, handsome, bearish, 6', 265#, trimmed beard, massive chest, big thighs/belly. You: love manhandling my huge tits. Mutual ok. ☎ 9541

Hot crotch needs hungry mouth
Hairy, masculine, HIV-, clean, verbal, little bear daddy with pure top energy seeks hungry oral expert (or couple) for long intense sessions of service and worship. ☎ 9542

The tights stuff
Guys in tights, biking shorts turn me on! Love legs, buns & bulges on cleancut GWM/GLM 25-35 (will make exceptions) who like showing off/worship/sorry no drag. ☎ 9636

South Bay Buttplay
Me: masc. att. GWM 47, in-shape, lots of toys, dildos, rim seat. You: in-shape to 50, clean hot holer, FF, and versatile are a + but optional. ☎ 9637

Bondage for bodybuilders
WM, late 40's, wants to see your muscles flex and strain as I tie you up and play with your pecs/cock/balls until you cum. ☎ 9638

Medical top sought
by btm for medical scenes, cath, sounds, restraints, enemas, rubber and your fantasy. HIV-, NS, clean cut, mid 40's. ☎ 9639

Concupiscent Catholic Priests
Bless me father, for I have sinned. I masterbate envisioning you and me kissing nude in bed. Please make a Berkeley home call to prescribe acts of contrition. ☎ 9640

Beefy bear seeks ripe foreskin
Beefy masculine bear 50, 5'10, 200#, bald/short white hair/beard, HIV-, professional, seeks ripe foreskins to service. Not into raunch perse. Just want to taste/smell nature's best. ☎ 9642

Spare the rod...
this senior trim fit English gentleman floors the buttocks of naughty boys. Young gentlemen only please. Any age. Upper Haight. ☎ 9773

Watch dad feed toilet boy
Looking for hot men, interested in watching intense feeding. You must be into seat, and get off on watching me feed my toilet. Experience in videotaping a plus. ☎ 9774

Sexy daddy need boy balls
Daddybear, 45, 5'11, 220lbs, very hairy, uncut, balding wants to work your boyballs. You get to take care of my foreskin. ☎ 9775

Long lash whips
Professional, masculine, 45yo has fetish for single lash bullwhips. Strong back and arms. Can give or take whippings, safe, sane, clean, drug free only. Fantasy explored. ☎ 9776

Shave you down!
GWM wants to shave your crotch, balls and whatever else. Shave it off and get you off. Safe and experienced. Let's play! BM don't be shy. Give it a try. All ages ok. ☎ 9777

Codename: Spartacus
ISO Centurian & gladiator tops, slave boy bottoms for Roman fantasy week-end. Bondage, S&M, outdoor fun! Let's enact the revolt of Spartacus. ☎ 9778

Feet sheer socks and more
Attractive Latino, 31, 5'11", 190, Virgo, size 121, dark features. Would like to meet Latinos or whites under 35 into foot fetish. Serious only. ☎ 9779

Sexy hairy daddies N2 T&T & FF
Need to slip/slides w/ versatile 40-60yrs HIV+ GAM, GWM, Lev/leather w/ facial hair. Me: GBM, 6'1, 200#, sht s/p hair, 4 WS, Dildo, TT, FF exploration. Happy New Year. ☎ 9780

East Bay
Nede cut white-latin men wanted with big clean feet and a wheel chair. Over them, then around the world. 50's, hot mouth is waiting. Call me. ☎ 9781

Daytime asshole eater!
Get your asshole eaten by a pro! ☎ 9643

FF, tops, bondage
Ex, vers, guy looking for day/evening partners. Serious only, no heavy drugs/drinks. ☎ 9543

Have a foot or leg injury?
Are you in a cast, brace and use crutches or a wheelchair? Age unimportant. Prefer white or Latino. Asian, 23, 5'8, 165#, workout. All replies will be answered. ☎ 9782

COUPLES

Come with us
HIV+ couple, 41 & 50, fit seek fit singles or couples for play. Like group sex, this, spanking, sucking, fucking, open to other possibilities. HIV+ preferred. ☎ 9544

Be my teacher for exotic fun...
Be my teacher for exotic fun. Bi-couples only (MF, FF) for my virgin experience, Black nylons, cigar smoker, drug free, suck/fuck good ass. ☎ 9644

Afraid of the dark?
Let this gdlng GWM couple, HIV+, 40's show you how much sensual, slippery fun can be had after dark in a hot tub, sling and play room. Let your imagination guide you. ☎ 9645

Three's company, four's a party
Attractive, in-shape, committed black/white couple seeking 3rd or couple for sex adventures. You be: 25-40, any race, in-shape, 6'9, top or versatile, and ready for hot, safe consensual sex. ☎ 9783

Tasty Sandwich
Sexy 30yr old, HIV-, Filipino/Spansh, 33", 5'6, hard smooth body ISO Caucasian couple 20-35 only with hardbody to play with. ☎ 9784

GW couples wanted by GAM
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Other voices

◀ Arts cover

always attaining the pinnacle of art, are at least memorable. Who can forget a frenzied Elizabeth Taylor assaulting a mincing Marlon Brando with her riding crop in *Reflections of a Golden Eye*? Or Vivian Leigh's deranged dowager's plea for "magic" being answered with a rape by her brutish brother-in-law in *A Streetcar Named Desire*? Sexual hysterics are the lure here, make no mistake; without them, the result may be Southern, but it isn't Gothic.

David Rocksavage's version of Truman Capote's *Other Voices, Other Rooms*, a minor effort in the genre, has all the earmarks of a hothouse melodrama. There's the setting, a decaying plantation called "Skully's Landing" that hints at a long-lost glorious past. There's a young innocent in the form of 13-year-old Joel Samson (David Speck), who, in coming to visit a father he hasn't seen for nine years, is suddenly faced with a gallery of grotesques. Daddy (Frank Taylor) is a mute invalid cared for by the fluttery, slightly unhinged Amy (Anna Thomson) and her equally crazed cousin Randolph (Lothaire Bluteau),



Lothaire Bluteau and David Speck in *Other Voices, Other Rooms*.

who spends his time strutting around the plantation in a variety of silk dressing gowns and listening to — what else? — opera. And

no Gothic is complete without a Big Secret. In this case, it's something mysterious that happened in the past that's responsible for

Daddy's invalid condition, Amy's barely controlled hysteria, and Randolph's dramatic withdrawal into a dream world.

In spite of these promising elements, the film is subdued to the point of innocuousness. There are no sexual fireworks, no *sturm und drang*; in fact there's barely a whisper of life from these quietly desperate characters. Amy wanders through the house with smudged makeup, diaphanous frocks, and a vacant expression only occasionally interrupted by tears. She says things like, "Do you remember when this used to be the center of the world?" — a painful indicator of the film's fatal insularity. And while there are scenes of Amy and Randolph sabotaging Joel's attempts to see his father, or to conduct a correspondence while he's visiting them, we never get the crucial sense that he's a real prisoner of this netherworld. A subplot involving the local tomboy Idabell and a trip through the scenic swamp surrounding the Landing goes nowhere, but this may indicate a structural fault in the book that was simply transferred to the film.

Most problematic is the director's failure to limn the contours of the dreamworld that controls Randolph's, and presumably the other denizens', daily life. We get brief flashbacks hinting at an ill-fated love triangle among Randolph, a hunky Cuban boxer, and a mysterious woman, but we're asked to extrapolate too much. Randolph prancing through the environment with a permanently pained expression, as if he's struggling with a particularly large hemorrhoid, is not enough to convince us he's in the throes of a tragic, overpowering memory. His accent, a hitherto unheard of mix of *faux* French and sitcom Southern, certainly doesn't help. As Joel, David Speck, previously seen in Joel Schumacher's *The Client*, struggles to enliven a dull character, but he's in over his head here trying to create the "sophisticated naïf" and future homosexual Capote portrays in the novel.

On the plus side, there's a strong, earthy performance by April Turner as the servant Zoo. She manages some of Capote's rather hackneyed conceits — like her character's obsession with seeing snow — with surprising skill, emerging as the one authentic person in what looks more like puppet play than an American Southern Gothic. ▼

Other Voices, Other Rooms runs January 16-20 at the Castro Theatre. Call 621-6120 for information.

The Dungeon



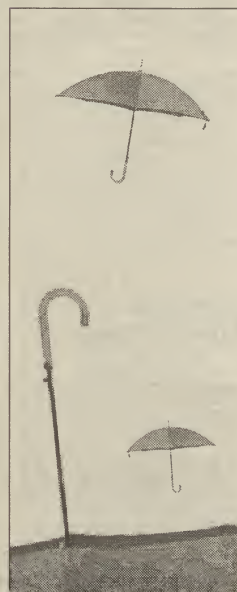
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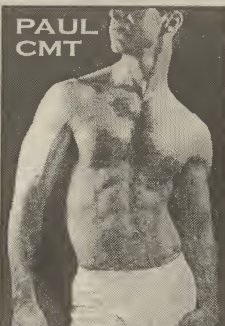
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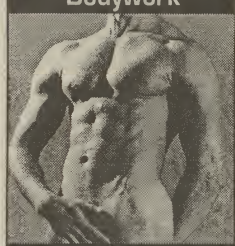
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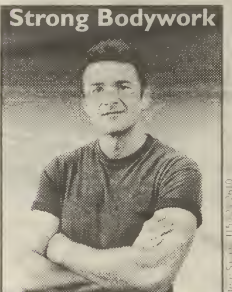


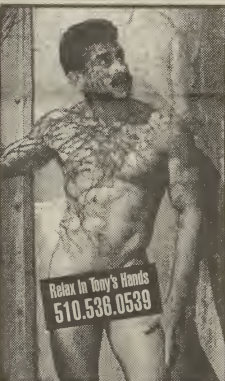
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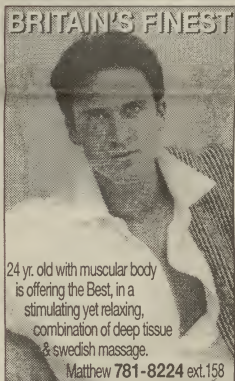
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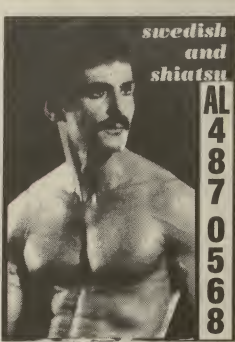
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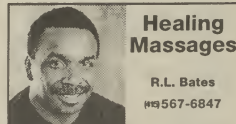
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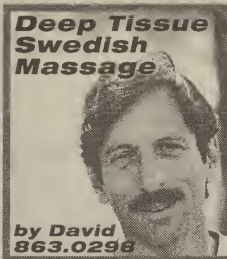
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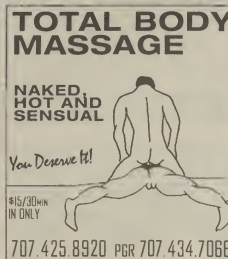
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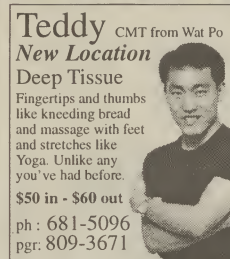
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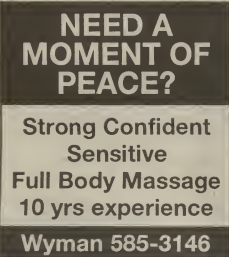
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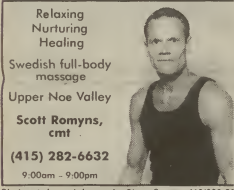
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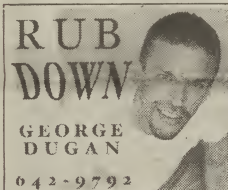
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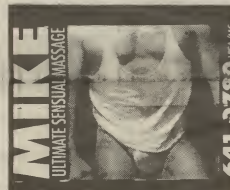
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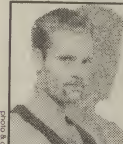
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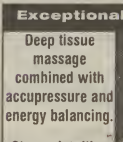
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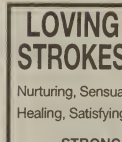
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2nd and 4th Saturdays
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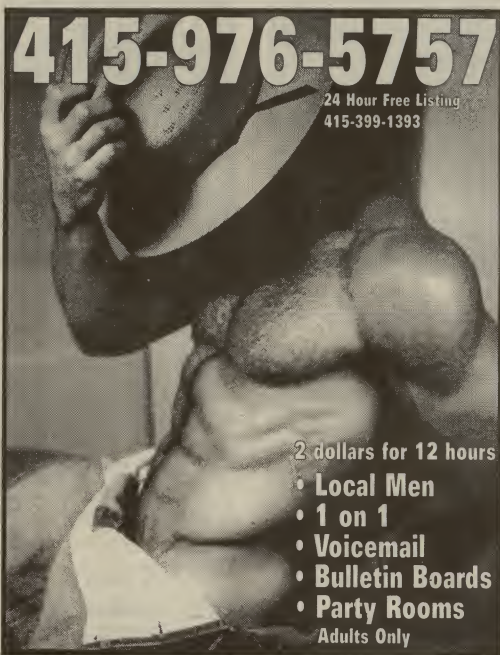
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Adults Only

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Tall handsome butch top
WANT MASCULINE?Muscular, 190#, 9" cut 764-6280 E03Horny stud. Open to all fantasies.
Hung long & XXX thick. Sexy quality.**STRICTLY TOP**Mike 415-431-6253 \$90. Call now!! E03**SERVICE THIS!**Heavily muscled stud 6' 190# 8"
Huge pecs great biceps thick
Legs dominant/verbal Tony 303-2895 E03

Hothouse film vet/ sling maker

GENIUS FISTHandsome, hung 28 yo 764-6627 E05

Tall, lean, handsome Scorpio

28 yo w/8" hard+curved to fit

YOUR THROATLong endurance. 764-6627 E05**HOT HANDSOME LATIN**New to city. 5'9", 160 pounds, 24
years old, black hair, brown eyes,
very sexy. Call Patrick for your plea-
sure. Pager (415) 207-1923 E03

David-smooth, muscular

COMPETITIVE DIVERExtremely handsome-washboard abs
Packed Speedo & amazing butt
\$150 versatile 267-5906 E03**BLACK GOLD**10" 6ft 195lb hard body 415-5923 E04**HANDSOME HUNK**Clean cut 6'3" 185# blond/blu
hairy well equipped and great balls
Call Chase 24hrs Pgr 280-1651 E03**SPANKING**NEED IT/WANT TO GIVE IT
5'11", 165lb, Experienced
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as seen in Bachelor Party,
Dark Journey and Black Side Door E03**BONER*BOY*8* DWTWN**1-800-624-7243 PIn#2743723 E03**6'3,220#FIREMAN**28yo. masculine, muscular,
XXXhandsome. 35+ only.
No disappointments, 415-679-3168 E03**SURFER BOY!**Fresh from La Jolla 91/2 thick
Let's party (415) 224-5384 E03**CUTE 24YR OLD**5'8", brown/brown, 140#, smooth,
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CUTE BOY NEXT DOOR22, 6', 150 lbs, blond/blue
Pgr 605-9016
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Hotels, 24hrs. (415) 346-4677 E03**CLEAN CUT MUSCULAR
BLOND****CUTE BUTT BIG PECS**
165 lbs. 5'9" 510-841-0756 E03Pec-Nipple Ecstasy 773-9130 Kory E0310"10"10"U need it U want it come
get it! Musc boy avail 24hr always
hard come play w/ the best Socrates**510-892-7034** E03**CAPABLE**Hot big & muscular w/large steel rod
Lkg for places to put it. Pg313-9946 E03**UNCUT FRENCH BOY****10 INCHES 6****(415) 487-080Y (6269)**175lbs., 6 ft, cute, top, In/Out E03**TOP DOG**Like a handsome guy with a big
Tool and great bod? 207-5315 E03**HIRED MAN**Handsome hung versatile tall hairy
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10Inches 10Inches++ Avail24hrs

Socrates 5108927034 Come feel it. E04

Tame this monster.Masculine guy...

HORSEHUNG STUDAvail for sizzling encounters athletic
built. XXX Thick beautiful tool.Anthony \$85/in 415-861-7399 E03

Sexy, friendly, muscled top. I'm 29

with a hard, defined gymnast's body,

broad shoulders, great chest, popping

biceps, handsome face, 8 hard, sweet

inches offering hot, sensual, intimate

times with mutual respect and no at-
titude. \$120 Jeff 679-8487 vm/pgr. E03**S/A ITALIAN FRANCO 8X6UC**45C, 17A, 33W, 26T hairy 565-5015 E03**SENSUAL LATINO**

5'5, brn eyes, brn hair, 8 cut top

friendly, gives sensual massage

Outcalls

PG RANDY 415-599-7862 E05**81/2, UNCUT, BIG BALLS**

Smooth/athletic Euro-boy (29)

Dark hair, hot ass, try me!! 24hrs

Only outcalls Fabian 314-9586 E04

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Need a helping hand? Slow/Easy Firm
I'm great with beginner stud advanced.
Give it up to Nikos 885-1471 Nob Hill E03

26yo Hot Latin top wants to make
your time the best one. In/Out Andres
415-527-6096 HAZ
FANTASIAS REALIDAD E03

GREAT LOAD
Workout, Muscular body, Chest hair
Thick 81/2" rod. Smooth low hangers
Full bush. Tan line, Blond, Blue eyes
5'11" 170# Good looking Stud. 27yrs
I love to do it. No nonserious, top. SF
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Top man 35yr 140# 5'9 30" w inshape
9X7 HARD TOOL
RANDY 582-9395
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Young, cute, smooth, tones Latino
New to town. Cleancut and very fun
to be with. 5'5", 140#, size 8 shoe.
Also do massage. John 709-2261 Pgr
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HOT STRAIGHT TOP
Available for serious work.
Whips, bondage, suspension, CBT, TT.
J.C. 510-452-1710 E03

CONSTRUCTION WORKER
Mature, hairy, rugged good looks,
Muscular & ready to play. 406-7259 E05

NEEDED: ORAL EXPERT
For hot jock, thick 9", kicks back
405-9669 *Outcalls* Mike E03

Masculine young built fun
Cleancut Redhead, 6'4, long torso
24, size 12's. \$100. Rod. 709-0787
LONG LEAN & LIVELY. E03

HOT, SOAPY ENEMAS
Smooth, toned, pretty-boy Asian
28, 5'9", 140#. Pgr 807-7697 E04

HOT NASTY TOP
H2O sports Vrb lab use 810-7203125 E03

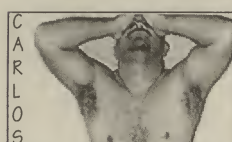
Ready to service you long and deep.

HOT MOUTH
I also kick back for service.
What's your fantasy? Andy 708-5388 E03

Muscular boy toy, extra pleasure
THRUST AFTER THRUST
with a muscular ass & hungry throat
25yo, solid Italian stud 739-7312 E03

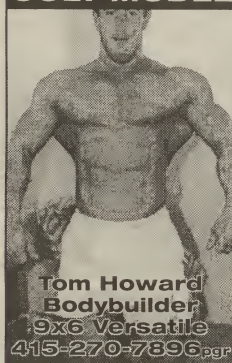
Verbal top, long lasting fun A ball
busting 8.5 hardcore stud. \$90. 24hr
AGGRESSIVE STUD
In/Out OK. Craig 415-861-7399 E04

MODELS/ESCORTS



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7" Uncut • 232-3825

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Hairy Italian Bi-Dude gives best
French when his lady is away. Safe
Manly Escort to your Hotel/Home.
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Hot 8" Nudist 346-4966 Ken \$60 E05

MEXICAN HOMEBOY
Handsome, Dark, Latin
\$100 Outcall Only
Dino 24Hrs.
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HUNG LTHR DAD
6'4" 190, 40s, 7.6X6 stache/gotee
5ft10" smooth, toned, attractive
Dino 24Hrs.
Areas I/O \$40/60 Pgr 707-9446575 E03

MARC

19yo blond hair, blue eyes 150#
5ft10" smooth, toned, attractive
10" PAGE 790-5076 E03

5'8" Wellbuilt redhaired Dutch boy
Ready to suprise you. Pgr 4913662 E03

\$80-In.Priv. apt-view/\$100 Out SF
UNCUT TRUE 10"
HM# 505-4199 E03

Best there is in town-Esalan ***
Out \$100 Page Toby 415-224-3651 E03

Rough stuff, VA, WS, oral service
28YO XML B&D TOP
6'3", 170, 8", fit, cadet looks
Verbal&demanding. Kal 764-6627 E05

Cute guy 5'5, 135#, Nice chest &
Arms, hung, smooth, bottom, older men
welcome \$50 Donald 351-2034 E06

SHOWER BOY
Wm 5'7" 120#
20yr old very cute
Love to show off!
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JOSH
19yrs black hair brown eyes #135
5ft7" smooth, masculine
Looking page 790-5109
From Down Under E03

VERTICALLY ERECT
19yo WM 5'7, 120. The real thing
Hot boy body, sweet, love to get
guys hard!! (415) 207-0577 E04

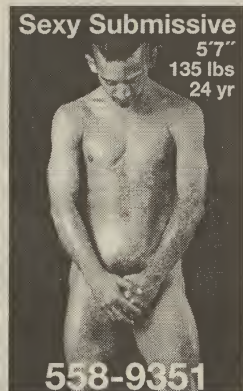
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Young & Hot, 5'11", athletic, tattoos
Sexy trade & easy going.
Page Niko 582-9023 E03

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30, 6'2, 200#, Brn/Blu, size 11 feet
\$50 hour (510) 595-0838, Austin E05

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Hot hung and versatile
Let daddy make it alright
Older and bad boys welcome
Call Daddy 821-7536 E03

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220lbs, 6'1", 52ch, 21"A,
26 years.
New in town from
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HUGE 9"x7"
6' • 175# • Dark Blonde • Blue
Muscular • Very Goodlooking
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Avail Evenings & Weekends
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NEW, NEW, NEW AD
Call 709-RYAN. See my small photo
ad. Well hung 26yo top, great face &
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BLACK B/B BOTTOM
Derrick 120/In 130/Out
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LEATHER/SM/FANTASY
39yo Top, 6'1", 195#, 7" uncut, flat top
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Very Handsome and Athletic 31yo
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Muscular, hndsm, Big fun pleasers.
Anthony or Gabriel.VM/Pgr 7083555 E03

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Wants you on your knees for pec
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Dad/son/coach scenes. 415-351-1824 E05

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YEAR OLD GUYS**
WE ARE BOTH SMOOTH & TONED
Mark-Blond, Blue Eyes, 5ft10", 10"
Josh-Black Hair, Brown Eyes, 5ft7"
Say G'day To Us
Page 790-5076 Out Only. E03

Hot hung 81/2 Blond muscle dude
Out only Pgr. 313-4856 \$100 E03

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XXTHICK**
Let this horny, cute & fun 25yo satisfy
you w/a fat 91/2" tool. Smth very
hot well-defined & tan body. 207-7936 E03

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10Inches 10Inches+++ Muscle boy
Available 24hrs 22y.o 510-892-7034 E04

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6'2" 300LBS**
24yr, blonde, blue eyes, top
56" hairy chest, 19" arms, 32" thighs
Call Brock 415-414-1808 pgr/voice
Discretion assured, outcalls only E03

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Smooth, slim & eager to please!
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WITH A TOP WHO ENJOYS
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with slender physique, sexy,
devilishly handsome white boy

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Size 12 Feet

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6'1" 39yrs

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waist 31"/wt. 160lbs/ht 5'11"
UNCUT THICK TRUE 10"
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Mohawk Sinister Goatee
6', 195, 28yrs Buffed w/ playroom
Mild to Wild
Call Bolt 415-560-8528

BREATHLESS
Very goodlooking, masculine top
guy. Will leave you breathless and
total satisfied. Page me @207-6117

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Call Alan 792-1446 or 931-0979

Get drenched by 25 yo WS top.
2X same price. \$60in/\$80 out.
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Cute smooth 18yo
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Handsome friendly and discreet.
Clean slim built with boyish looks &
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1 Brn/Brn eyes, Nice ass, 1 Blind/
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18yo cute, friendly
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QUALITY MEAT
For you 25/6ft Masculine & friendly
Very hot! Clint*313-2531 24hr/\$100

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6', 150#, 8 inches 24hr Hot Magick
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5'8, 155, 8 Pg 414-0132 24hrs

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Jeff 997-7307

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Outcalls call Kyle (415)376-5136

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Dominant Leatherman
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All Fantasies.

39yo, 6'1", 195lb,
Marine Looking,
Brown hair, flat top,
Blue Eyes, mustache,
7" Uncut.
Beginner to heavy.
Have equipment and playspace
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Well built muscular military type
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BOY NEXT DOOR
8" Uncut safe/discreet
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Hot young fun
20 Smooth, slender, 7" vst btm toy
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Your true fantasy, handsome, top,
muscular 24yo, 5'8", 150#, smooth,
CLASSIC ASIAN
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Mature, hairy, rugged good looks,
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For hot jock, thick 9", kicks back
405-9669 *Outcalls* Mike

Masculine young built fun
Clean-cut Redhead, 6'4, long torso
24, size 12's. \$100. Rod.709-0787
LONG LEAN & LIVELY.

Hot hard swimbl'd 5'8" 135# smooth
22YO BLOND BOY
Versatile erotic fun 764-5342 Troy

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master into all aspects &
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26YO TOP
6FT, 198LBS
BIG BALLS
GREAT FACE
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CLEAN-CUT, ATHLETIC
BUILT GOODLOOKING-
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IN-OUT \$85-\$95

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Bodybuilder
6'4" • 260lbs

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Extremely masculine,
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Very Good Looking
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HUNG
SMOOTH
SEXY**

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**PAGE
HUNTER**

Jeff/pgf. 338-4132
5'11" 150#s 29yo

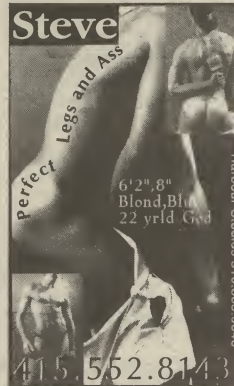


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PERIOD.**

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THE TOP
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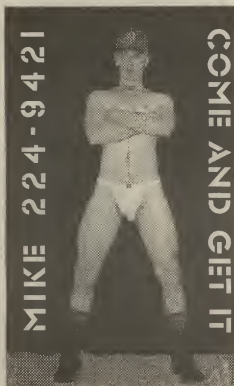


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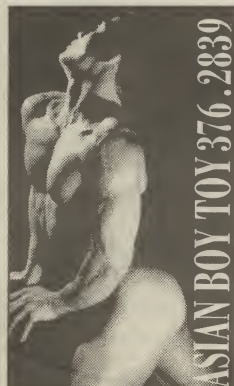
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Is Here**

- Submit
- Surrender
- Let Go

Discover who you really are.
Experience your desires.
Encounter the Spirit.

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all things
beginners welcome

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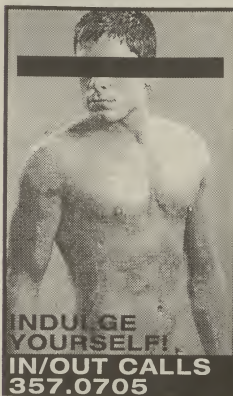
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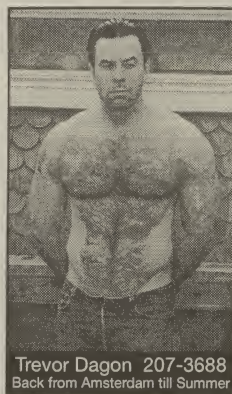
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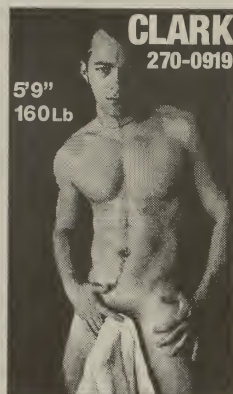
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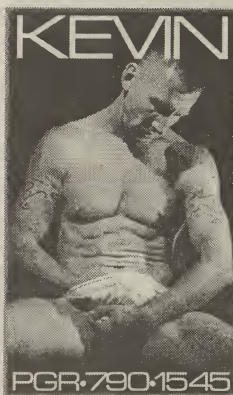
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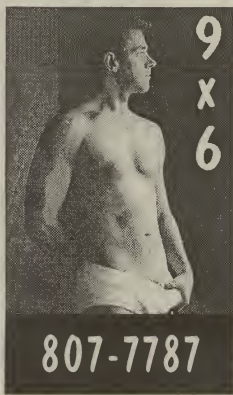
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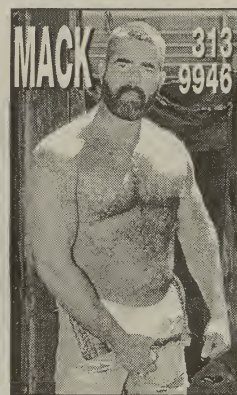
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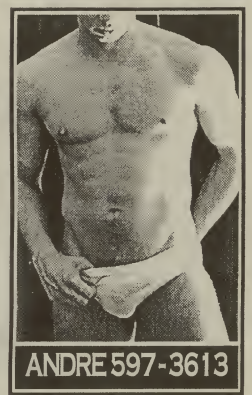
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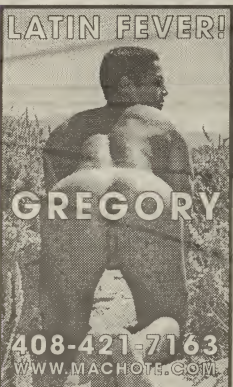
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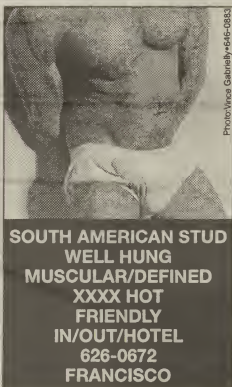
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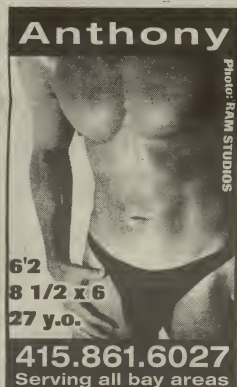
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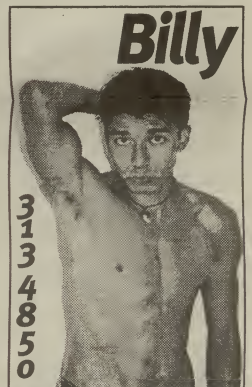
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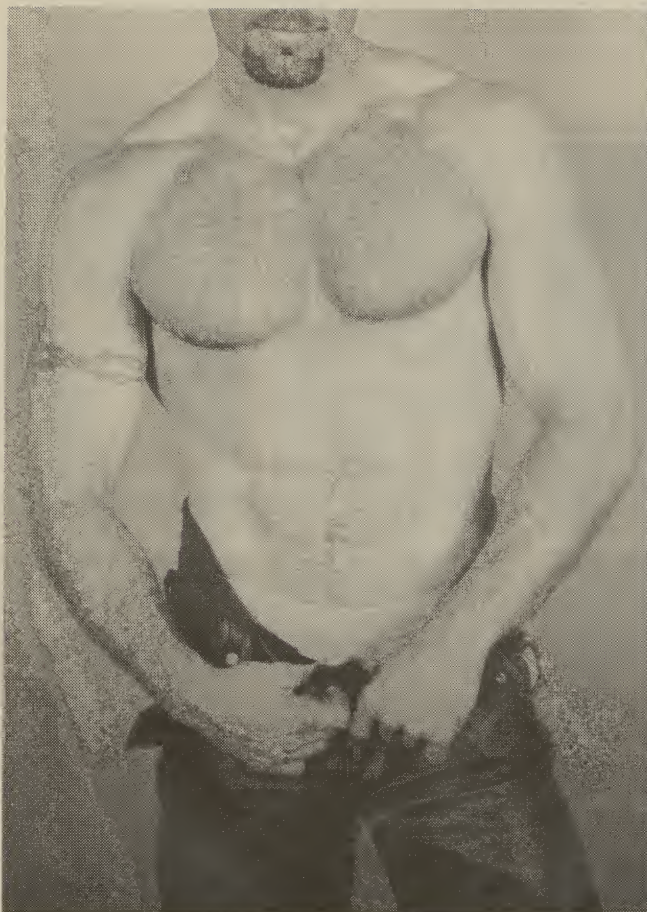
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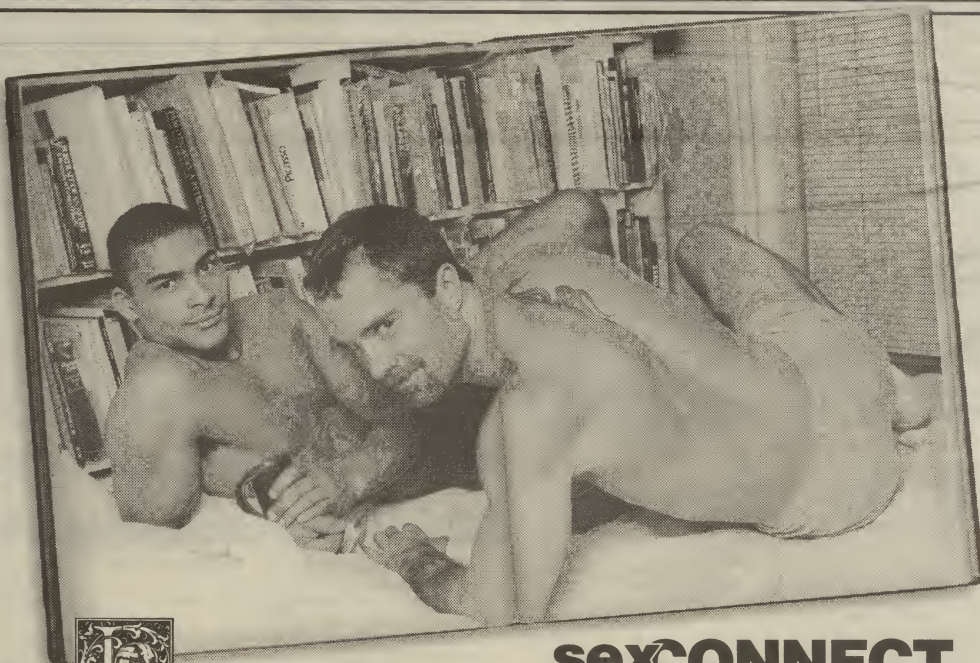
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